



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities

**Appropriations Request
For Fiscal Year 2016**

**Submitted to Congress
February 2015**

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

Fiscal Year 2016 Appropriation Request Submitted to Congress February 2015

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NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Submission to Congress

SUMMARY AND HIGHLIGHTS

The Administration and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) request an appropriation totaling \$147,942,000 for the agency for fiscal year 2016:

- \$104,250,000 for the Endowment's grant programs in support of projects in the humanities, including \$43,040,000 for the operations, projects, and programs of the state and territorial humanities councils;
- \$5,500,000 for a new special initiative—*The Common Good: The Humanities in the Public Square*—in support of projects that demonstrate the critical role the humanities can play in our public life, including the continuation and expansion of *Standing Together*, the Endowment's special programming for veterans and active duty military;
- \$10,900,000 in federal matching funds, including funding for the NEH Challenge Grants program to help stimulate and match private donations in support of humanities institutions and organizations; and
- \$27,292,000 for salaries and expenses needed to operate the agency efficiently and effectively.

NEH: Fifty Years of Serving the Nation

September 29, 2015, will mark the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The 89th Congress established NEH in 1965 in the belief that “Democracy demands wisdom and vision in its citizens” and that the cultivation of the highest quality scholarship, education, and public programming in the humanities has tangible and lasting benefits for all Americans. The public funds that successive Congresses have provided to NEH for nearly five decades have enabled the agency to invest in nearly 71,000 humanities projects that have enriched the lives of our nation's citizens and helped them to participate more fully in their democracy. Through its grantmaking, NEH has made significant contributions to the cultural capital of the nation and broadened Americans' access to humanities resources and knowledge.

The Endowment's mission is to provide leadership in the realm of ideas and the spirit by advancing knowledge and understanding in the humanities—history, philosophy, literature and languages, archaeology, political theory, comparative religion, and other humanities subject areas—and to make this knowledge and learning widely available throughout the nation. Each year, NEH fulfills its mandate by providing training for thousands of school, college, and university teachers; reaching tens of millions of Americans with high quality television and radio documentaries, museum exhibitions, and reading and discussion programs in museums and libraries across the

nation; and by supporting, in partnership with the Library of Congress, efforts in every state to digitize and make accessible hundreds of thousands of pages of historic U.S. newspapers. NEH also supports scholarly research that has resulted in the publication of thousands of books, many of which have won prestigious awards for intellectual distinction, including 18 Pulitzer Prizes and 20 Bancroft Prizes. And, through the state humanities councils, NEH funding annually supports tens of thousands of reading and discussion programs, literacy programs, speakers bureau presentations, conferences, Chautauqua events, media programs, and a variety of technology, preservation, and state and regional history projects.

The most significant result of this work is the steady growth of the cultural capital of the United States. NEH has had many partners in this endeavor, including humanities councils in every state and territory, state and local governments, private foundations, and generous individuals. But without the Endowment's leadership and its singular commitment to the cultivation of the entire nation's cultural capacity, and its commitment to broad access to humanities resources for all Americans, our citizens' understanding and appreciation of their cultural heritage would be significantly diminished.

Cultural capital benefits our nation in other ways. The cultural economy is hugely important to the economic health of thousands of communities around the country, and it is likely to matter more and more as the economic base of the United States continues to shift away from manufacturing to education, healthcare, human services, and information technology.

Indeed, the universe of individuals and institutions engaged in humanities work throughout the nation, which NEH helps to encourage and support through its grant making, is significant. The nation's 4,500 institutions of higher learning employ approximately 125,000 humanities faculty who teach millions of students. More than 3 million teachers dedicate their lives to teaching humanities subjects to tens of millions of school children who attend the more than 128,000 K-12 schools across the country. In addition, the nation's 17,500 museums and historical societies, which greet 2.4 million visitors daily, and the state humanities councils, which annually reach millions of citizens of all ages, help form the cultural backbone of cities and towns across the country. Collectively, these institutions, and the people they employ, buttress our democracy, strengthen communities, and represent a significant part of the American economy.

The Common Good: The Humanities in the Public Square

"The humanities belong to all the people of the United States."
—National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act of 1965

In April 2014, President Obama nominated Dr. William D. Adams—who was retiring after a long and distinguished career as the President of Colby College in Maine—to be the tenth Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities. In mid-July, the U.S. Senate confirmed Dr. Adams, and he joined the agency shortly thereafter.

In assessing NEH's program offerings, Chairman Adams took note of the Endowment's charge in its enabling legislation to demonstrate "the relevance of the humanities to the current conditions of national life." To bolster this essential component of NEH's work, the Endowment has launched a major new initiative, *The Common Good: The Humanities in the Public Square*. The initiative will be an agency-wide effort designed to demonstrate the critical role the humanities can play in our nation's public life. NEH requests \$5.5 million in support of *The Common Good* in FY 2016.

As NEH observes and commemorates its fiftieth anniversary, it is especially fitting to begin an initiative devoted to the broadest possible engagement of the American public with the humanities. For most of the great challenges we face as a nation, the challenges that define our times and determine our future, are not essentially scientific or technical in nature. They are about our values, our fundamental beliefs and ideas and assumptions, our histories and our cultures. These are the proper domains of humanities learning and thinking. The publicly-engaged humanities can help us understand where we've been, what we value and believe, and where we're headed.

With funds requested for *The Common Good* for FY 2016, the Endowment will encourage the deployment of the humanities around important national challenges and public issues, and in doing so will take advantage of the new avenues for research and expression made possible by the continuing revolution in digital media. The initiative will be woven throughout all of the agency's major program areas and in NEH's partnerships with the state humanities councils, other federal agencies, and private foundations. Initial components, activities, and programs of *The Common Good* will include:

- Under the rubric of *The Common Good*, the Endowment intends to continue and expand the special programming it launched last year, *Standing Together: The Humanities and the Experience of War*. This distinctive program connects the humanities to the experiences of veterans and service members, addressing a compelling need and serving a community that traditionally has not been a part of the humanities. To date, we have provided more than \$1.36 million in grants for a number of pilot projects that will serve as models for future efforts. These grants include support for veterans to transition from the military to college; reading and discussion programs for veterans in VA hospitals, community centers, and public libraries using great works of literature; and public performances for and involving veterans that draw on timeless themes from classical Greek dramas of soldiers returning home from war. The Endowment also provided support for work in the 50 states and the territories through special grants made to the state humanities councils. Continued support for *Standing Together* will be one of the Endowment's funding priorities in FY 2016. *Standing Together* and the work of the state humanities councils on veterans are providing a valuable template upon which other programs within the public square can be developed.
- A new "Public Scholar Program," a long-term effort to encourage and promote humanities research and writing for a wider reading public. Under this grant category, awards will be made to scholars working on topics of broad public

interest and that have lasting impact. For example, such scholarship might present a narrative history, tell the stories of important individuals, analyze significant texts, provide a synthesis of ideas, revive interest in a neglected subject, or examine the latest thinking on a topic.

- A new “Humanities Open Book” program, in partnership with the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, designed to make outstanding, out-of-print humanities books available electronically, and free of charge, to the American people. By taking advantage of low-cost e-book technology, this program will allow teachers, students, scholars, and the public to read many thousands of works of history, literature, philosophy, and other humanities subjects that have long been out of reach.
- Through the Endowment’s Museums, Libraries, and Cultural Organizations program, proposals will be encouraged for public humanities projects that reach new, underserved, or at-risk audiences. The program will also encourage “Community Engagement” projects in museums, libraries, and other public venues that draw on the humanities to offer perspectives on complex questions facing Americans as members of communities and as citizens. The Endowment’s new Digital Projects for the Public grant category, which made its first awards in FY 2015, also relates directly to the broad objectives of *The Common Good*.
- A new program, “Our Common Heritage,” will support local community events in cities and towns devoted to digitizing cultural heritage materials such as photographic materials, maps, films, letters, and other historical materials for exhibition, study, discussion, and preservation.
- Additional resources will be provided to the state humanities councils, which are already heavily invested in the public humanities.

The Endowment’s FY 2016 request reflects a shift in programmatic and budget priorities to the new *The Common Good* initiative. Consequently, the agency’s *Bridging Cultures* initiative, which was established in 2011, is being phased out as a special program emphasis. No discrete funding is requested for the initiative for FY 2016. The most effective and productive of the grant opportunities *Bridging Cultures* helped make possible—for example, the *Bridging Cultures* through Film: International Projects program in the Division of Public Programs and a new special project relating to Latino Americans—are now either completed or have been fully integrated into the regular operations of the Endowment’s program divisions.

Included in a separate section of this budget request (see page 11) is a fuller discussion of *The Common Good: The Humanities in the Public Square*, including *Standing Together*, and the Endowment’s plans to implement major components of the initiative in FY 2016.

Other FY 2016 Program Highlights

A brief overview of the Endowment's many other programmatic plans and objectives for FY 2016 follows. These plans are discussed in detail in the individual division, office, and program sections of this budget submission.

- Support for the programs and activities of the state humanities councils. NEH's work in FY 2016 will be complemented and extended by the programs and projects of the NEH-affiliated humanities councils in the states and U.S. territories. With their strong networks of cultural and educational institutions within their states, the councils are able to reach citizens in diverse and remote settings that NEH's national programs may not be able to reach. Every council has a unique programmatic mix that is tailored to the needs and interests of the citizens of their state.
- Preserve and increase access to cultural heritage resources. In FY 2016, the agency's Preservation and Access grant programs will continue to focus on projects that preserve and reformat the intellectual content of historically significant books and periodicals; preserve and provide access to important archival materials and library special collections; and create humanities research tools and reference works such as dictionaries, bibliographies, and encyclopedias.
- Support research and scholarship that expand our knowledge and understanding in the humanities. The Endowment's FY 2016 budget request will provide critical support for advanced humanities research and scholarship in the United States. Funding will allow NEH to make hundreds of awards to individual scholars, as well as grants to institutions and teams of scholars engaged in collaborative projects, to explore subjects that enrich our knowledge of the people, ideas, and events that make up the record of civilization.
- Strengthen teaching and learning in the humanities in elementary and secondary schools and institutions of higher education. In FY 2016, NEH would sustain its support for summer institutes, seminars, and workshops that provide teachers with opportunities to replenish and deepen their knowledge of the humanities through intensive study of books and other materials. The Endowment supports teacher and faculty development projects that are based on rigorous humanities scholarship and directed by distinguished scholars and master teachers. The ultimate beneficiaries of these programs are the hundreds of thousands of American students who annually are taught by teachers who have enhanced their knowledge of the subjects they teach.
- Provide opportunities for Americans to engage in lifelong learning in the humanities. In FY 2016, the Endowment will provide support for public humanities projects that will enable millions of Americans to engage deeply with significant works, ideas, and events through the lens of the humanities. The Endowment supports a wide range of public humanities programs that reach large and diverse audiences. These programs make use of a variety of formats

including television and radio documentaries, museum exhibitions, and interpretation at historic sites, websites, and other digital media.

- Provide national leadership in spurring innovation and best practices in the use of the digital humanities. In the humanities, as in the sciences, digital technology has changed the way scholars perform their work. The Endowment supports digital projects in all of its major grant programs. Through its Office of Digital Humanities, NEH also fosters the development of a wide variety of innovative digital humanities projects. The Digging into Data program, for example, brings together nine other funders from the U.S. and abroad to support international projects that use advanced computing tools to query large digital datasets of humanities materials. On a smaller scale, for the last several years the Endowment has provided seed grants to scholars to develop plans, prototypes, or demonstration models for cutting-edge digital humanities projects.
- Strengthening the institutional base of the humanities and leveraging third-party contributions to humanities projects. The NEH Challenge Grants program in FY 2016 will continue to assist educational and cultural institutions, such as colleges, universities, museums, public libraries, historical societies, state humanities councils, and many other humanities organizations in developing new sources of long-term support for their humanities programs. Recipients of Challenge grants must match every federal dollar with three nonfederal dollars (except in the case of special initiatives, where different matching ratios may be applied). NEH Challenge grants are recognized for their success in encouraging private giving to the humanities.

Encouraging private-sector support for cultural activities is an important goal of the agency. NEH requests FY 2016 funding for its Treasury funds account, which will be used to match nonfederal contributions to individual projects in the humanities. NEH Treasury matching grants, which match nonfederal donations on a one-to-one basis, have proven to be an effective mechanism for leveraging the contributions of businesses, foundations, and individuals on behalf of the humanities.

- Partnership initiatives. NEH provides national leadership through creative partnerships with other nonfederal and federal institutions in support of mutual interests in the humanities. These partnership initiatives will be continued and strengthened in FY 2016. NEH's collaboration with the National Science Foundation (NSF), for example, provides national recognition and support for projects to document, record, and archive endangered languages worldwide that are on the verge of extinction, including hundreds of American Indian languages. It is estimated that half of the world's 6,000-7,000 current spoken languages are on the verge of extinction. Since FY 2005, NEH has supported more than 100 projects, including many on endangered American Indian languages, and awarded approximately \$11 million as part of this widely acclaimed initiative.

For many years, the Endowment partnered with the Verizon Foundation to create a nationally recognized website for teachers seeking rich humanities resources on the Internet. The website, EDSITEment, now contains over 500 scholar- and teacher-developed lesson plans for the K-12 classroom and links to more than 400 peer-reviewed sites selected for their high quality humanities content and interactive design. More than 3 million visitors—teachers, students, and parents—avail themselves of EDSITEment’s rich resources each year. In recognition of EDSITEment’s continuing reach and impact, and of the central place it now occupies in the array of NEH programs, in FY 2014 the Endowment began transitioning support for this project to appropriated funds.

NEH and Program Evaluation

In FY 2016, NEH will continue its commitment to assessing the outcomes of its grants in order to monitor and, when needed, improve the effectiveness of our programs and operations. In recent years, for example, we have conducted a series of in-depth evaluations of a number of our major grant programs. Assessments have recently been completed of the NEH Fellowships program in the Division of Research Programs, one of the Endowment’s original flagship programs; the Humanities Collections and Research Resources program in the Division of Preservation and Access; the America’s Media Makers program in the Division of Public Programs; and the Digging into Data program in the Office of Digital Humanities. Each of these surveys produced findings that have helped the agency make adjustments in program objectives, bring greater clarity to program guidelines, improve grants management, and provide better service to applicants and grantees alike. Indeed, the Endowment’s FY 2016 program plan is informed by the results of these evaluations.

A number of other evaluations are either currently in the works or will be launched in the coming year, including:

- ✓ NEH’s Division of Education Programs is conducting a systematic evaluation of the outcomes of grants made from 1997-2011 in the Summer Seminars and Institutes for College and University Teachers program. Data gathered from the survey will help us assess the program’s impact and make any needed adjustments in the program’s objectives.
- ✓ The Research Programs division is evaluating its Summer Stipends program, which provides grants to scholars to devote two months of uninterrupted time to research or writing on an advanced research project in the humanities.
- ✓ The agency’s Public Programs division is conducting a study of more than 400 NEH-supported humanities exhibitions and programs that took place around the country in 2012. Information is being gathered about the number of people and types of audiences reached by each project. This will be followed by more in-depth analysis of a smaller sample of projects.

- ✓ The Office of Digital Humanities has begun an evaluation of its Institutes for Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities program. Extensive interviews will be conducted with scholars who attended the institutes to determine how the training impacted their research and their humanities careers. This evaluation will help the Endowment gauge how well the program is achieving its goals and where adjustments may be needed to meet needs and opportunities in the field of digital humanities.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

Summary of FY 2016 Appropriation Request (\$ in thousands)

	<u>FY 2014 Approp.</u>	<u>FY 2015 Approp.</u>	<u>FY 2016 Request</u>
<i>Special Initiative: The Common Good</i>	--	--	\$5,500
Bridging Cultures	\$3,494	\$3,500	--
Education Programs	13,237	13,265	13,040
Federal/State Partnership	42,435	42,528	43,040
Preservation and Access	15,426	15,460	15,200
Public Programs	13,654	13,684	13,454
Research Programs	14,752	14,784	14,536
Digital Humanities	4,388	4,400	4,480
<u>Program Development</u>	499	500	500
Subtotal	107,885	108,121	109,750
 Challenge Grants	 8,357	 8,500	 8,500
<u>Treasury Funds</u>	2,381	2,400	2,400
Subtotal	10,738	10,900	10,900
 <u>Administration</u>	 27,398	 27,000	 27,292
Total	\$146,021	\$146,021	\$147,942

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The Common Good: The Humanities in the Public Square

FY 2016 Request: \$5,500,000

In the opening lines of NEH’s enabling legislation, Congress declared that the “humanities belong to all the people of the United States.” Since it was established nearly fifty years ago, NEH has carried on its work with twin purposes in mind: to ensure leadership in the realm of ideas and to engage the public in the humanities. As a principal investor in the growth of America’s cultural capital, NEH has supported basic humanities research and made significant long-term investments in documenting and preserving the legacies of American history and culture. At the same time, NEH has systematically developed and promoted opportunities for the humanities to be made available to broad public audiences. The path-breaking “Treasures of Tutankhamen” exhibition that NEH funded in 1976 is considered by many to be the first “blockbuster” exhibition; it was seen by nearly 8 million people in seven major American cities, many of whom were first-time museum goers, and it established a new precedent for public engagement with museums. A new form of documentary film, with humanities scholarship at its core, was developed because NEH grants gave early support to the vision of filmmakers like Ken Burns and funded carefully researched films seen by millions of people and used in classrooms across the country. NEH also has a decades-long record of outreach to communities across the United States, where small, sought-after grants, have enabled libraries, schools, historical societies and many others to draw upon national resources—through travelling exhibits, reading and discussion programs, and many other humanities education opportunities.

In recognition of NEH’s 50th anniversary, the Endowment intends to refresh and reinvigorate this longstanding commitment to the public humanities with a new initiative—*The Common Good: The Humanities in the Public Square*. The initiative brings special emphasis to “the relevance of the humanities to the current conditions of national life.”¹ Today, as our country grapples with both remarkable opportunities and extraordinary challenges, a central purpose of *The Common Good* initiative is to engage humanities scholars with the complex issues playing out in our public lives, and to demonstrate the relevance and power of the humanities in tackling those issues. The initiative is also intended to renew NEH’s broad commitment to making the humanities accessible across the nation, through the use of digital technology as well as traditional programming, in diverse communities, rural and urban, large and small.

The Endowment’s \$5.5 million request for *The Common Good* for FY 2016 would provide the means to support a full range of individual and organizational efforts to advance the new initiative and to do so in publicly accessible ways. Through NEH’s traditional grant-making programs and several special programs detailed below, *The Common Good* will encourage humanities scholars to turn their attention to topics that have widespread resonance with the American people and lend themselves to the methods and concerns of the humanities.

¹ National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965, 20 U.S.C. § 952 (a), as amended.

Standing Together: The Humanities and the Experience of War

As a core component of *The Common Good*, NEH intends to strengthen significantly its support for *Standing Together: The Humanities and the Experience of War*. Launched as a series of pilot programs in the spring of 2014 to promote understanding of the military experience and to support returning veterans, the initial phase of *Standing Together* has already made possible several projects and programs that exemplify the aspirations of the broader *The Common Good* initiative. Among these programs are:

Warrior-Scholar Project, a project designed to assist veterans in transitioning from the military to college, a demonstration of the public humanities in action. First offered at Yale University, with a planned 2015 expansion to include eight additional campuses across the country, this unique project offers a “humanities boot camp” for veterans to prepare for higher education; the curriculum challenges program participants, students and faculty alike, to make the humanities relevant to larger public questions as they grapple with themes of war, service, and the values held in common in our democracy.

The Talking Service Project, a program of discussion groups for veterans using works of literature in the NEH-funded anthology, *Standing Down: From Warrior to Civilian*. *Standing Down* features fiction, non-fiction, poetry, essays, journalism, public documents, and memoirs. The program uses public libraries, VA hospital common spaces, and other public and private venues to convene veterans in a series of meetings facilitated by a scholar discussion leader.

Aquila Theatre, a theatre and discussion series featuring veterans as actors, performing before audiences of veterans and veteran communities. The NEH-funded Aquila Theatre Company, a not-for-profit based in New York City, conducts special outreach to veterans and their families, with programs and interpretive discussions that draw on the timeless themes captured in Greek drama of soldiers returning home from war. Performances feature topics such as “Warstories: Ancient and Modern Narratives of War” and “Ancient Wars and Modern Warriors: What Can Homer and the Greek Tragedies Tell Us about War Today.” NEH’s recent supplemental funding has made possible a set of new programs with a special focus on women in war and women’s experience in supporting those returning from war.

Literature & Medicine for Veterans, a reading and discussion program offered by the Maine Humanities Council that reaches veterans and their caregivers. Building on the program’s successful track record within the Department of Veterans Affairs system, the program is now working with veterans at the grassroots level to address issues and themes that veterans themselves have identified as important to them. Called *Coming Home*, this new version of the program offers facilitated small-group reading and discussion programs directly to veterans, and works through partnerships with 12 humanities councils in Arizona, California, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, North Carolina, South Carolina, South Dakota, and Vermont.

Digital Methods in Military History, a collaboration between NEH, the Society for Military History, and Northeastern University to hold a first-of-its-kind professional development workshop on the application of digital humanities methodologies to military history. Leading scholars from the digital humanities community provided hands-on instruction that enabled participants, drawn from the military history community, to learn new ways to conduct their research using the latest in digital tools and techniques.

Using funds requested in support of the broader *The Common Good* initiative, in FY 2016 NEH will strengthen and expand upon the encouraging work *Standing Together* has already delivered under NEH auspices. Specifically, the FY 2016 funding request would support:

- A new program in support of projects that offer public audiences opportunities to consider the experiences and lessons of recent wars, using the perspectives of the humanities to frame the discussions. NEH would invite applications for significant grants to create a national series of public discussion programs, using selected readings and documentary films to set the stage for community dialogues. This special series on the experience of war would build on NEH's recent success in organizing other national discussion projects. Beginning in 2012, the project, *Created Equal: America's Civil Rights Struggle*, made resources available to over 470 community organizations across the country and offered access to four NEH-funded documentary films (streamed free online), an extensive educational website, and a traveling exhibition, along with support for hosting events where humanities scholars led discussions about the history and values behind the civil rights movement. A similar national project, *Latino Americans: 500 Years of History*, will use this model to reach 200 sites in 2015 with programs based on the award winning NEH-funded documentary, *Latino Americans* and its compelling account of the diverse experiences of Latinos in the United States. That film series includes an episode highlighting the contributions of Latino service members in World War II, and libraries will have the opportunity to build programs around that topic, among others, under the planned grant programs later this year.
- A new grant opportunity to fund professional development workshops, in which expert public programmers train other professionals to use their successful models—exemplified by the NEH-supported pilot programs described above—in communities across the country. These dissemination grants will amplify the lessons learned and best practices developed in humanities programs that serve the needs of veterans and their families, as well as programs that enable public discussions, informed by humanities scholarship, of the experience and sacrifices of recent wars.
- A new program in digital military history to meet the increasing demand for digital humanities methods in the field of military history. The *Standing Together* initiative was enthusiastically received by the military history community, and the 2014 NEH-funded workshop, *Digital Methods in Military History*, was so popular that nearly half the applicants for a limited number of slots had to be turned away. In response to this need, NEH will develop, with input from military history organizations and experts, a series of

regional workshops to expand this effort to seed the field of military history with new research techniques. Innovations in data mining and mapping mean that work that once had to be painstakingly done by hand, like plotting the delivery of orders up and down the line or sketching the flow of a battle, can now be done faster and with more flexibility by computer. This program is an opportunity for NEH to reach a new group of scholars with the benefits of expertise developed through NEH's Office of Digital Humanities over the past decade.

The Endowment has also added special language to its existing grant program guidelines to encourage more veterans-related projects. For FY 2016, as part of *The Common Good*, NEH proposes to foster projects that help preserve and make publicly accessible veterans' accounts of their war-time experiences through oral histories and other historic records. Since its launch last spring, *Standing Together* has generated much interest from the humanities community, and we anticipate receiving many grant proposals in FY 2015 and FY 2016.

Connecting Scholars to Contemporary Public Concerns

To prompt humanities scholars and organizations to advance *The Common Good* initiative, NEH has begun to invite proposals in all appropriate grant programs for projects that draw on the humanities to engage citizens in considering contemporary challenges—from the implications of pervasive digital technology to the changing demographics in American communities. Drawing on the success of *Standing Together*, *The Common Good* aims to foster new projects and programs that will inform and enlarge public dialogue on a wide range of twenty-first century concerns. An initial list of promising areas includes:

- How can the humanities illuminate both the positive and worrisome ways in which the remarkable advances in information technology are affecting individuals and communities in contemporary American life?
- How can the humanities enrich the debate over the appropriate balance of security and privacy that technological advances have placed before us?
- How can the humanities deepen public understanding of the meaning of democratic citizenship in the twenty-first century in relationship to our founding principles and values, our political history, and our current circumstances?
- How can the humanities illuminate the legacies of recent wars and conflicts and contribute to the achievement of a deeper and broader public understanding of the experience and lessons of war?
- How can the humanities contribute to the full incorporation of veterans into civilian life and help all of us appreciate their unique perspectives?
- How can the humanities assist the country in addressing the challenges and opportunities created by the changing demographics in many American communities?
- How can the humanities illuminate the enormous promise of new biomedical technologies and procedures and deepen our understanding of the complex ethical and personal questions they raise?

- How can the humanities address the various forms of cultural and political polarization that have become so prevalent in contemporary American life and thereby contribute to the building of new forms of community and understanding?

These possible areas of inquiry are intended to provide direction for new kinds of scholarship that will strengthen the public humanities and engage the resources of humanities organizations to inform important discussions of challenges confronting individuals and communities today. With the funds requested for *The Common Good* in FY 2016, two new programs—the Public Scholar Program and Community Engagement Grants—will challenge humanities scholars and local institutions to find new ways to connect their work to these and other public concerns:

- Public Scholar Program: a new category of grants to support well-researched books in the humanities that are intended to reach a broad readership. Although humanities scholarship can be specialized, the humanities also strive to engage the public in exploring subjects of general interest. They seek to deepen our understanding of the human condition as well as current conditions and contemporary problems. The Public Scholar program aims to encourage scholarship that will be of broad interest and have lasting impact. Such scholarship might present a narrative history, tell the stories of important individuals, analyze significant texts, provide a synthesis of ideas, revive interest in a neglected subject, or examine the latest thinking on a topic. By establishing the Public Scholar program, NEH enters a long-term commitment to encourage scholarship in the humanities for general audiences.
- Community Engagement Grants: a new opportunity in the Museums, Libraries, and Cultural Organizations grant program for support of public dialogue, grounded in the unique points of intersection between the academic study of the humanities and civic engagement. Using the perspectives offered by disciplines such as ethics, history, literature or philosophy, community organizations will be invited to develop projects that draw on the power of the humanities to offer useful perspectives on contemporary questions facing Americans. Rooted in the tradition of collective discussion of the common good, this grant opportunity will fund projects that focus on a central set of humanities resources (for example, works of literature, museum artifacts, oral histories or documentary films), interpreted by a team that includes humanities experts, and carefully framed to consider multiple points of view in a thoughtful and balanced manner.

Broadening Public Access to the Humanities

With the funds requested for *The Common Good* in FY 2016, NEH would support a number of special efforts to expand public access to the humanities and extend the reach of NEH programs to audiences, institutions, communities, and areas across the nation that have not in the past been served as effectively as others by our programs:

- Our Common Heritage: America's cultural heritage is preserved not only in libraries, museums, and archives, but also in all of our homes, family histories, and life stories. In a special collaboration, NEH's Division of Preservation and Access and Division of

Public Programs will support community events devoted to digitizing cultural heritage materials, such as family letters, historic documents, and historic artifacts, in addition to public programming related to local history. The highlight of these projects will be a day-long event, organized by community cultural institutions. Members of the public will be able to bring in heritage materials—photographs, documents, family letters, art works, and other historic artifacts—to be digitized on the spot by professionals. Contributors will be provided with a free digital copy to take home, along with their original materials. With the owner’s permission, additional digital copies of these materials would be included in the institutions’ historical collections. Related public outreach could include an exhibition of historical materials, a screening of a relevant film, a presentation by a historian, or a curator’s commentary on the items scanned. Our Common Heritage will underscore the fact that members of the public, in partnership with libraries, museums, archives, and historical organizations, have much to contribute to the composition of our cultural mosaic, and together they can serve as effective partners in the appreciation and stewardship of our common heritage.

- Public Programs for Underserved Audiences: NEH is making a renewed commitment to reach out to those who have not necessarily been engaged with humanities programs in the past, and to that end, the agency’s Museums, Libraries, and Cultural Organizations program will encourage proposals for public humanities programs that reach new, underserved, or at-risk audiences. In 2014, for example, NEH entered into a partnership with the American Library Association to support programs in 200 communities on the history of Latinos in the United States, using the NEH-funded film *Latino Americans*, and this effort is likewise designed to bring the power of lifelong learning in the humanities to communities that may not have connected with NEH in the past.
- Humanities Open Book Program: Through an innovative partnership with the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, NEH is co-funding a pilot program for digitizing scholarly books as e-books. The goal of this project is to make selected classics of humanities scholarship widely available to the general public, for free. Many scholarly books of significance, including many funded over the years by NEH, have disappeared from public view after falling out of print. This project will invite scholarly presses to bring those books back into view and use the latest technology to share them with new audiences.
- EDSITEment: NEH’s in-house K-12 education project offers an important tool for reaching a wide audience and furthering the goals of *The Common Good*. With over 3 and a half million visits annually to the EDSITEment website, NEH offers excellent humanities resources, free to any user and curated especially for classrooms. High quality learning materials on topics from civics to American history to world literature are linked to the products of NEH grants and disseminated widely on the Web, through creative use of social media and partnerships as diverse as National History Day, the National Library of Medicine, and the Civics Renewal Network. As part of *The Common*

Good, NEH intends to continue its 16-year commitment to EDSITEment and strengthen its capacity to bring the best of the humanities to the nation's students and teachers.

- Digital Projects for the Public: Building on NEH's pioneering work in the digital humanities, NEH will support innovative projects that connect the public with the humanities through educational games, digital apps, and other innovative technologies. New interactive platforms offer new ways to deepen audience engagement with humanities ideas and questions and to disseminate programs beyond traditional audiences. As a leader in the field, NEH is positioned to help cultural organizations of all kinds conceive digital strategies for reaching a new generation of audiences and cultivating wide appreciation for the humanities in the digital public square.

The Common Good and the NEH Federal/State Partnership

NEH has invited humanities councils in states and territories across the country to participate in *The Common Good*, and the councils have enthusiastically embraced the goals and themes of initiative. A commitment to the public humanities is at the heart of their work, which addresses local needs and concerns by promoting in-depth explorations, grounded in the humanities, of vital civic issues. We anticipate that councils will extend the reach of the initiative by showcasing ways in which the humanities strengthen local communities. With their strong networks of cultural and educational institutions, the humanities councils are well-positioned to ensure that *The Common Good* initiative has a broad reach, increases public engagement with the humanities, and encourages renewed attention to “the public square”—shared spaces for discussions of the values, practices and traditions that bind communities together in our democracy.

The launch of *Standing Together* energized the entire community of state humanities councils and laid a strong foundation for expanded efforts to foster the public humanities as part of *The Common Good*. With small grants made available from NEH in FY 2014, locally-based humanities programs for and about veterans, their families, and communities were made available in almost every state and territory. Many of these programs, which will be evaluated for potential continued funding, have motivated outreach to new people and groups who were not part of humanities networks in the past.

By convening project personnel, virtually and in person, NEH has worked to connect the people behind these projects and to build new capacity for serving the needs of veterans in key humanities organizations. Humanities councils are developing a growing network of like-minded cultural and educational institutions, including the Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress, to share resources and best practices in ongoing efforts to support veterans and the communities that surround them. Funds requested for *The Common Good* would enable the Endowment to further develop this capacity and help these new programs to take hold.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

FY 2016 Request: \$13,040,000

Programs/Grant Categories:

- Summer Seminars and Institutes for School Teachers
- Summer Seminars and Institutes for College and University Teachers
- Landmarks of American History and Culture Workshops
- NEH Support for Community Colleges (formerly, *Bridging Cultures* at Community Colleges)
- Humanities Initiatives for Faculty at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges and Universities
- Enduring Questions Course Grants

Through its Division of Education Programs, NEH supports teacher and faculty professional development, model humanities courses, and classroom resources that are based on rigorous humanities scholarship. These programs address one of the Endowment's strategic objectives: to strengthen teaching of the humanities at all grade levels, from elementary through graduate training, in the nation's schools, two- and four-year colleges, and universities. Endowment-funded projects help educators advance their knowledge in their subject areas and thereby improve their teaching, mainly through projects involving collaboration with well-established scholars. The ultimate beneficiaries of such projects are the hundreds of thousands of American students—in rural, suburban, and inner-city classrooms, as well as in colleges and universities—who annually are taught by reinvigorated and intellectually engaged instructors in humanities fields.

The federal government provides support to education in many forms, but NEH's programs uniquely address the need for humanities faculty to be deeply versed in the subjects they teach, a key attribute to superior classroom instruction and student learning. Over the years, the Endowment has helped foster far-reaching improvements in American education, such as the creation of web-based humanities teaching and learning tools, the teaching of America's Founding, and the revival of interest in core curricula and foreign languages. NEH supports content-based improvements in the teaching of history, literature, languages, philosophy, political theory, religion, and other humanities subjects. NEH projects ultimately help students engage with the core disciplines and knowledge that are crucial for an educated citizenry, as envisioned by the nation's Founders and no less essential in the twenty-first century.

In FY 2014, the Endowment's Division of Education Programs received 509 applications and made 104 grants. In FY 2015, approximately 525 applications and 102 awards are anticipated. At the Endowment's FY 2016 request level, approximately 525 applications and 100 awards are anticipated.

Among the projects supported in FY 2014 were two that addressed the Endowment's special initiative, *Standing Together: The Humanities and the Experience of War*. In collaboration with The Great Books Foundation—a not-for-profit educational organization that promotes reading and discussion of great literature—NEH supported the *Talking Service Project*, a program of discussion groups for veterans that is using works of literature in the NEH-funded anthology, *Standing Down: From Warrior to Civilian*. *Standing Down* features fiction, non-fiction, poetry, essays, journalism, public documents, and memoirs and includes writers such as Homer, Thucydides, Shakespeare, George Washington, Alexis de Tocqueville, Abraham Lincoln, Walt Whitman, Leo Tolstoy, Wilfred Owen, J. Saunders Redding, Margaret Atwood, Tim O'Brien, and Siobhan Fallon. The program uses public libraries, VA hospital common spaces, and other public and private venues to convene veterans in a series of meetings facilitated by a scholar discussion leader.

Also grounded in the study of classic and recent humanities texts is the *Warrior-Scholar Project*, which is an intensive two-week humanities-based “academic boot camp” to facilitate veterans’ transition from the military to college. The project engages participants in study with faculty from the fields of history, international relations, classics, and political theory. In preparation for matriculation to various kinds of post-secondary institutions, the veterans receive careful training in academic fundamentals, such as close reading of primary sources, text-based discussion, study-skills appropriate to large-volume reading assignments, note-taking at lectures, exam preparation, course selection, time management, family relations, and general confidence-building in academic settings. Additional tutoring, mentorship, and other educational resources is provided after the formal program is over. Founded at Yale University, the project has expanded to Harvard University and the University of Michigan, and—thanks to support from NEH—will be offered to an additional eight campuses in the summer of 2015. The expansion will bring the program to new regions through programs in Southern California and Oklahoma.

NEH Summer Seminars and Institutes

NEH Summer Seminars and Institutes have for more than four decades been one of the nation's premier forms of professional development in the humanities for college and university teachers and elementary and secondary school teachers. NEH offers these teachers opportunities to pursue serious, substantive intellectual inquiry in fields such as history, foreign languages, literature, religion, philosophy, and government and civics. Working with distinguished scholars, participants deepen their knowledge of the subjects they teach and develop effective ways of bringing this understanding to their students. Increasingly, both seminars and institutes have been relying on digitized materials in addition to traditional printed books and articles. For projects to be held in 2016, NEH is providing special encouragement for proposals in several areas: the agency's new initiative, *The Common Good: The Humanities in the Public Square*; the special veterans-related programming, *Standing Together*; advanced foreign language education; community college faculty development; and projects that would be able to produce

materials for inclusion on EDSITEment, the Endowment's nationally recognized website for K-12 teachers seeking rich humanities resources on the Internet.

NEH Summer Seminars enable sixteen participants to study for two to five weeks under the guidance of a senior scholar. The principal goal is to equip teachers with deep understanding of their subject areas, to engage them in scholarly research and discussion, and to improve their teaching. In NEH Summer Institutes, participants undertake an intensive program of study with teams of humanities scholars who present a range of perspectives on a given topic. Well-suited to larger groups (as many as thirty in school-teacher projects or twenty-five in college-teacher projects), institutes also last from two to five weeks and are a particularly effective forum for foreign language immersion, which the Endowment specifically encourages, for breaking new ground in an emerging field, and for redirecting the teaching of various subjects in the undergraduate classroom.

NEH annually supports Summer Seminars and Institutes on a range of topics in the humanities. During the summer of 2014, for example, among the projects offered were the following: The University of California-Santa Cruz conducted a four week institute for twenty-five college and university faculty on the history of mortality in ancient Greek culture. The University of Oklahoma, Norman, hosted a two-week summer institute for twenty-five college and university teachers to explore the topic of American westward expansion in the Early Republic through the lens of the U. S. Constitution. The University of Chicago hosted a five-week seminar for sixteen college and university faculty to study the poetry of George Herbert and Emily Dickinson. The University of Michigan developed a four-week institute for thirty school teachers on the role of "The Star Spangled Banner" and other music related to civic life in American history and culture, which took place at the University of Maryland, College Park. Boston University conducted a three-week school teacher seminar for sixteen participants to study influential philosophers of education from the eighteenth century to the present. And, the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, DC, hosted a four-week institute for twenty-five school teachers on William Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* and *Romeo and Juliet*.

A wide range of seminar and institute topics are also offered for the summer of 2015. For example, pre-collegiate literature teachers may apply to attend NEH-supported seminars or institutes on topics such as the following: Dante's *Divine Comedy*; William Shakespeare's *As You Like It*, *Julius Caesar*, and *Macbeth*; Asian American cultures in New York City through film and literature; the relationship between Spanish literary works and works of art in the Museo del Prado; and the literatures of indigenous peoples in North America and Europe. High school history teachers, among others, will be able to choose from such topics as the history of the Mediterranean region; the history and impact of the 1918 Spanish Flu epidemic; African-American migration and immigration in twentieth- and twenty-first-century North America; the history and cultures of Muslims in the United States; Reconstruction and its aftermath in South Carolina and Georgia's Sea Islands; and the development of modern economic systems in the Dutch Republic and Great Britain in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

For 2015, college-level faculty will be able to study, among other topics, African-American freedom movements in the North and West; Native American history; Transcendentalism and social reform; early American women's history from archival sources; the issue of slavery in the early American Republic; the cultural and linguistic confluence of peoples of the medieval British Isles; Christian, Muslim, and Jewish culture in the medieval Mediterranean; the evolution of New York's periodical press; U.S.-China political and cultural relations from the 1850s to the present; and the development and influence of Buddhism in Southeast Asian cultures and societies.

Each summer, participants in the Seminars and Institutes programs are asked to evaluate the project they attend. The collective evaluations for each project then become part of the assessment materials panelists consider when they review proposals by directors to conduct a subsequent seminar or institute. In 2015, the Endowment will release a report based on a systematic evaluation of the measurable outcomes for the Seminars and Institutes for College and University Teachers program. Data gathered from the survey, as well as the ongoing evaluation of individual seminars and institutes by participants, will help the Endowment make future adjustments to the program.

In 2010, the Endowment initiated a special competition for supplemental support of up to \$10,000 for seminar and institute project directors to extend the reach, duration, and impact of their summer programs through digital means. To date, 61 projects have received support to develop and maintain their websites for at least five years. For example, in her summer institute "The Visual Culture of the American Civil War," Donna Thompson Ray (Graduate Center, City University of New York) created a special section of the Center's Picturing U.S. History website, previously funded by NEH. The site provides access to print and multimedia resources that focus on the war's array of visual media to examine how wartime information and opinion were recorded and disseminated, and the ways visual media expressed and shaped Americans' understanding on both sides of the conflict. These resources derive from the institute and include podcasts and videocasts of lectures by the institute's faculty and visiting scholars; an image gallery of fine art, photographs, ephemera, and other archival visual evidence relevant to the scholars' presentations; select primary source documents; bibliographies and "webographies"; and research notes, lesson plans, and curricular materials developed by institute participants.

Landmarks of American History and Culture Workshops

The Landmarks of American History and Culture program supports summer workshops to educate K-12 teachers in the use of historical and cultural sites in teaching central themes and topics in American history. The program also encourages staff at the sites to improve their professional development programs. Landmarks workshops are held at or near presidential residences and libraries, colonial-era settlements and missions, forts and battlefields, industrial centers, and sites associated with notable writers, architects, and artists. The workshops are academically rigorous, involve leading scholars, and help participants develop new teaching resources. Projects accommodate thirty-six teachers at one-week sessions, which are offered twice during the summer.

In the summer of 2015, school teachers will be able to choose from such workshops as “Cultures of Independence: Perspectives on Independence Hall and the Meaning of Freedom”; “The Seat of War and Peace: The Lincoln Assassination and Reconstruction in the Nation’s Capital”; “The Rochester Reform Trail: Women’s Rights, Religion, and Abolition in the Genesee River and the Erie Canal”; “At the Crossroads of Revolution: Lexington and Concord in 1775”; “Empires of the Wind: The Pacific Side of Early American History”; “Crafting Freedom: African-American Entrepreneurs in the Antebellum South”; “The American Revolution on the Northern Frontier: Fort Ticonderoga and the Road to Saratoga”; “The Richest Hills: Mining in the Far West, 1862-1920”; “The Transcontinental Railroad: Transforming California and the Nation”; and “The Long Road from Brown: School Desegregation in Virginia.”

NEH Support for Community Colleges (formerly Bridging Cultures at Community Colleges)

In 2011, NEH announced a special competition, *Bridging Cultures at Community Colleges*, for large-scale, multi-year pilot projects at the nation’s two-year colleges. In 2012, the special competition was offered again, this time encouraging more leadership from and fuller collaboration with, community colleges themselves. For both competitions, the funded projects encompassed a variety of disciplines and provided faculty with opportunities to work closely over an extended period of time with top humanities scholars to conduct individual scholarly research, which will be presented in the classroom as well as for publication, and to work with community college colleagues at their home institutions or from other campuses on curricular issues of common concern. The grant category was modified again in 2013, this time to focus on multi-year regional or local efforts and to encourage community colleges or community college systems to serve as the lead or applicant institution.

The Endowment’s Division of Education Programs conducted an evaluation of the three rounds of grants made under this special, experimental grant category. The evaluation assessed how well the program was working—that is, the extent to which grant outcomes, measured both qualitatively and quantitatively, reflected program objectives—and considered whether further changes may be needed to improve results. Data was drawn from the applicant pool and participants selected by project directors; a multi-stage, NEH-staff-designed survey; site visits and ongoing monitoring activities conducted by NEH staff; formative, ongoing, and summative assessments by grantees; interim and final reports; and staff review of websites, online resources, and other grant-generated materials. As a result of this evaluation and the shift of the Endowment’s programmatic priorities away from *Bridging Cultures* to the new *The Common Good* initiative, the *Bridging Cultures* focus of the community colleges program will be discontinued in FY 2016, and the program will be redirected to meet other humanities needs and opportunities at the nation’s two-year colleges.

Humanities Initiatives at Historically Black, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges and Universities

In 2003, in response to special Presidential Executive Orders to all federal agencies, NEH established a program, Humanities Initiatives, to extend the reach of its grant opportunities to three types of institutions: Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges and Universities. Humanities Initiatives awards may be used to enhance the humanities content of existing programs; to develop new humanities programs, such as foreign language programs, new humanities minors, first-year seminars, or summer bridge programs for high school students; to build ties among faculty at several institutions; and to take advantage of underused humanities resources, particularly as they pertain to the professions, such as medicine, law, business, or economics. Each project is organized around a core topic or set of themes. Awards have been made on a range of topics, including, for example:

- Grambling State University received an award to conduct a three-week humanities curriculum development institute for faculty drawn from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) on the teaching of Greek drama. Faculty for the project conducted topical teaching workshops and discussions on Greek or Athenian history, the history and theory of Greek drama, and the contexts for plays in focus. Visiting faculty undertook the work of one playwright each week. The first week focused on Aeschylus' *The Persians*, *The Oresteia*, and *Prometheus Bound*; the second week treated Sophocles' Oedipus cycle; and the final week centered on Euripides' *Bacchae*, *Medea*, and *Trojan Women*. Each scholar delivered at least one public presentation at the local library, which was filmed and made available to a broader public. The bibliography included adaptations of the aforementioned works as well as secondary criticism, which brought multiple perspectives to the study of the works.
- The University of California, Riverside (UCR) received an award to “build a new program in health humanities” for its new medical school. “Narrative in Tandem: Creating New Medical and Health Humanities Programming (NiT),” a two-year-long interdisciplinary project, will engage humanities and medical faculty in dialogue “addressing the cultural, economic, historical, and philosophical complexities of obtaining and providing health care by focusing on the role of narrative and storytelling.” Twelve UCR faculty from the college of humanities, arts, and sciences and the school of medicine will study together in eight seminars and engage in a culminating conference. Year one will establish the relationship between narrative medicine and the humanities. Papers emerging from the project’s concluding conference will be gathered in an edited anthology or published individually for further dissemination.
- Turtle Mountain Community College (TMCC), a Tribal college, received support for a two-year initiative to strengthen humanities teaching on its campus through the work of Louise Erdrich. A member of the Turtle Mountain Band, Erdrich has written thirteen novels, as well as poetry, short stories, and children's books, that depict the Turtle Mountain Chippewa people and their lives on the reservation. Her work has earned her the National Book Critics Circle Award, the National

Book Award, and the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award, and has made her a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. At TMCC, seven faculty members will study her works and collaborate on ways to integrate them into new and existing courses. The group will read *Love Medicine* (Erdrich's debut novel, a fictional saga of two families), *Tracks* (a character-driven historical novel), *The Plague of Doves* (which brings together the reservation and white communities over an unsolved family murder), *The Antelope Wife*, and two children's books: *The Birch Bark House* and *Chickadee*. There are also plans for Erdrich to visit the campus. To extend the project's impact, the faculty will develop supplemental materials on Turtle Mountain history and culture, as well as make presentations at tribal college conferences and post materials on the college website.

Enduring Questions Course Grants

The Endowment's Enduring Questions Course Grants program provides opportunities for faculty at higher education institutions to design a new course for undergraduate teaching and learning that promotes engagement with fundamental issues in the humanities. The program encourages faculty and students at the undergraduate level to join together in deep, sustained programs of study and to encounter influential thinkers over the centuries and into the present day. The Enduring Questions program also has greatly extended the reach of NEH to smaller, teaching-focused, and regional institutions, many of which are first-time NEH grantees.

Enduring Questions are questions that have more than one plausible answer. They have long held interest for young people, and they allow for a special, intense dialogue across generations. Some of these questions are: What is the good life? What is justice? What is freedom? What is happiness? What is friendship? What is dignity? Is there a human nature, and, if so, what is it? Is there such a thing as a just war? What is good government?

A recent grant provides an example to demonstrate the promise of the program for generating creative and rigorous responses to the Enduring Questions challenge. Four faculty members at Franklin and Marshall College have teamed up to develop a course for first-semester students to explore the question: What is the examined life? The course will be organized into three historical units, framed by a prologue and epilogue. In each unit, a relevant example of period art will supplement the core readings, and a biographical case study will encourage students to assess an examined life. With a deliberate focus on close reading, analytical writing, and group discussion, the course will immerse students in the very practice they are studying. In the Prologue, for example, a comparison of Ancient Near Eastern cosmology and Michelangelo's "Genesis" in the Sistine Chapel will introduce students to the fundamental task of "locat[ing] the human in the world." The course will then proceed to a discussion of antiquity, with readings of Hesiod, Sophocles, Aristotle, and Polykleitos that will address themes of happiness, fate, and freedom. A study of Greek and Roman portraiture will show idealized versus realistic conceptions of physical beauty, and Socrates' trial and death would provide the biographical lens. Readings on the medieval world will use

Augustine's *Confessions* as the biographical case study and students will read the *Rule of St. Benedict* and Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* to compare monasticism and pilgrimage, and a study of monastic and pilgrimage architecture will elucidate the different traditions. On the modern era, readings on Shakespeare and Rembrandt will illustrate a new interiority and Nietzsche and Freud its later iterations. Landscape painting will show nature as a place of solace and terror, and Darwin's letters will supply a biographical view. The faculty will meet weekly to integrate the perspectives of their four disciplines (philosophy, religious studies, art history, and anthropology) into the final syllabus. They will also develop a series of colloquia with guest speakers, films, and faculty debates as a means to bring the intellectual community of the course to the rest of the campus.

FEDERAL/STATE PARTNERSHIP

FY 2016 Request: \$43,040,000

The NEH Federal/State Partnership is a collaborative office that links a national federal agency with more than fifty state and jurisdictional humanities councils. Together they help to preserve our valued traditions and transmit them from generation to generation, to promote the wisdom and vision needed to make sense of the world in which we live, and to offer individuals and communities opportunities to test ideas or actions and imagine their consequences. The councils were established to fulfill the requirement in NEH's enabling legislation—the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965, as amended—that it support humanities programs “in each of the several states.”

Federal/State Partnership helps the National Endowment for the Humanities realize its two primary strategic goals: (1) to advance knowledge and understanding of the humanities, and (2) to provide national leadership in promoting the humanities in American life. Federal/State Partnership, with the state humanities councils, makes humanities education and lifelong learning across the generations readily available at the local level, tailored to local interests and needs and drawing upon local resources, traditions, and heritage. Together, they embody the humanities in action.

State humanities councils are nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations governed by volunteer boards of directors. They operate in each of the fifty states, as well as in the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa. The councils employ more than 500 staff members and engage more than 1,000 volunteer board members. Each council receives funds annually from NEH in accordance with a statutory formula. As federally mandated, every NEH dollar a council receives is matched by local contributions of cash, goods, or services. In fact, councils leverage \$5.00 for every federal dollar awarded in NEH grants to them. They work with more than 9,340 partner organizations and conduct programs in nearly 6,110 communities nationwide. The National Endowment for the Humanities protects the federal investment by ensuring that state councils are strong organizations capable of delivering high quality humanities programming. It does so by collaborating with them on a regularly scheduled self-assessment and evaluation process, by communicating with them individually and corporately, and by maintaining a high level of accountability.

State humanities councils have two major ways to support the humanities in their jurisdictions: They develop and carry out humanities programs and they grant a portion of their funds on a competitive basis to locally initiated programs. In their program-generating role, they are nonprofit service providers drawing on their own resources and looking for external support of the benefits they offer; in their grant-making role, they act as foundations from which eligible organizations and individuals seek funding. Schools, libraries, historical societies, museums, literacy programs, filmmakers, teachers, researchers, writers, and storytellers are among the many kinds of cultural organizations and people with which the state humanities councils work. Councils also successfully collaborate with other partners to bring the humanities to bear on a wide range of

community activities, especially in the areas of public policy, literacy, and social service. State councils bring funds, resources, expertise, and networks to the organizations, communities, jurisdictions, and states they serve.

The thousands of humanities projects and programs supported by the state councils reach millions of Americans in rural areas, urban neighborhoods, and suburban communities every year. With funds provided through the NEH Federal/State Partnership, the councils provide support for reading and discussion programs for children, families, and the newly literate that take place in libraries and other community centers; for state and local book festivals, as well as the participation of eleven councils in the annual National Book Festival sponsored by the Library of Congress's Center for the Book; for professional development in the humanities for elementary and secondary school teachers; for scholarship and stories about state and local history and culture, such as thematically focused magazines and comprehensive online state encyclopedias; for exhibitions at museums, libraries, and historical sites; and for radio, television, and film projects about human experience and history. Councils have developed fruitful working relationships with schools, community colleges, and institutions of higher learning. They carry out an ever increasing amount of programming and communications electronically using social networking, podcasting, and RSS feeds in addition to websites and electronic newsletters. A number of councils post videos about their activities on the YouTube website. Council activities are featured prominently on the NEH website, with new postings appearing regularly.

For many years, state humanities councils have supported programs designed specifically to address the experiences and needs of America's service men and women and veterans. To further that work, fifty-four state humanities councils received special \$10,000 grants from the Endowment to support local programs for veterans over the next year as part of NEH's initiative *Standing Together: The Humanities and the Experience of War*. Examples of the ways councils will work with veterans include the Wyoming Humanities Council's collaboration with the University of Wyoming Veterans Service Office on its *Project Healing Waters*, a fly fishing program where veterans will read and discuss Norman Maclean's book, *A River Runs Through It*, during fishing trips; the Oklahoma Humanities Council partnership with the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority to help produce an episode of its "Native Oklahoma" series focusing on the war experience of Native Oklahomans, the warrior culture, and the uniquely Oklahoman veteran narrative; and the New York Council for the Humanities initiative *Serving: Standing Down*, a reading and discussion program for veterans, providing space for them to reflect on their service as well as the challenges and opportunities of transitioning from active duty to civilian life. In addition, as one of its *Standing Together* projects, NEH awarded the Maine Humanities Council \$150,000 to expand its *Literature & Medicine for Veterans* program, which works with Veterans Administration facilities to become involved directly with veterans through facilitated small-group reading and discussion programs.

According to the annual compliance report submitted by state humanities councils about their work in 2013, all of the councils support reading and discussion programs, 52 carry out programs in libraries, and 40 support family and adult literacy programs.

Eleven serve as their state's Center for the Book in affiliation with the Library of Congress. Councils not only program around books, a number also publish books, some of which are bilingual. Councils also use books to broaden their audience reach. Humanities Tennessee, for example, has a book review website, "Chapter 16" and has run the Southern Festival of Books for 35 years. In 2014, the South Dakota Humanities Council held its first Young Readers Festival in addition to its annual Festival of Books. And, Cal Humanities, the council in California, sponsors the "California Reads" program. In 2014, the book selected for this state-wide reading program is by Vietnam veteran Karl Marlantes' *What It Is Like to Go to War*, frequently cited by veterans as the work that best expresses their experience.

State-based humanities councils strengthen the bonds of community by making it possible for citizens to come together in neutral surroundings to address such issues as the economy, healthcare, demographics, energy, and education through discussions informed by history and literature. These in-depth explorations of critical and potentially divisive issues not only encourage citizens to be more thoughtful and better informed, they also increase citizen engagement in public life and bring people together to work toward common goals in shaping the future of their community and nation. The New York Humanities Council's "Community Conversations" program, for instance, includes online toolkits that are available for download to anyone according to topic and audience. The toolkits contain everything necessary for these "do-it-yourself" discussions: texts suitable for each audience—children, young adults, or adults; a set of sample questions; and guidelines for starting and sustaining a good conversation. Several councils host programs in restaurants, cafes, and bars that attract a younger demographic to participate in scholar-led discussions about such important topics as marriage and family life (Oregon), African-Americans and American Indians in film (Washington), in intricacies of living in a networked world (Maine), and women and war (Illinois). The councils in Puerto Rico and American Samoa play key roles in bringing people together to negotiate ways to preserve their traditional languages, cultures, and histories while functioning in the quickly changing present-day Western world. And, Humanities Nebraska opened its annual Chautauqua week in June 2014 in northeast Nebraska just after tornadoes hit the nearby tiny town of Pilger. The Chautauqua actors put on a benefit performance to help raise money for tornado relief.

The Alabama Humanities Foundation brought the entire state humanities council community together by hosting the annual National Humanities Conference of the Federation of State Humanities Councils in Birmingham during the fiftieth anniversary of the Civil Rights Movement. The Foundation planned events that included not only key people who participated in that movement but also incorporated the places where major events took place, providing opportunity for participants to walk "in the footsteps of history."

"Mississippi Moments" reached over three million listeners on Mississippi Public Broadcasting in 2013. This partnership of the Mississippi Humanities Council, the University of Southern Mississippi, and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History has been in place for over twenty years and airs twice a week, telling stories about Mississippi and Mississippians that have been collected through oral histories.

Humanities Texas's "Texas Originals" program profiles influential individuals in Texas history and culture and airs weekly on radio stations throughout the state. It is also available for global download on iTunes. The Virginia Foundation for the Humanities supports two radio programs, "With Good Reason" and "Backstory with the American History Guys," that reached audiences of almost twelve million in 2013. On "With Good Reason," Virginia scholars talk engagingly about their research, and "Backstory" looks at contemporary topics through the lens of three centuries of American history. For the 60th anniversary of the *Brown v. Board of Education* Supreme Court decision that declared segregated public education unconstitutional, the Kansas Humanities Council co-hosted two days of interviews for the national oral history project *StoryCorps*, in concert with the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site and the Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library.

State and jurisdictional humanities councils provide educational services using the humanities approach of seeking out evidence, looking at it from various angles, weighing it against other evidence, and discussing it with respect for differing points of view. Councils require that projects they fund incorporate the services of humanities professionals so as to provide intellectual balance. Some councils fund academic research; many support K-12 teacher professional development. All are in touch with their educational systems and institutions. "Saturday University" is a partnership between the Wyoming Humanities Council and the University of Wyoming that brings the university's best professors to towns across the state for free "one day college educations." Each "Saturday University" term features lectures from three outstanding professors. Following the lectures, all three professors participate in a final roundtable discussion and luncheon. Participants may attend one, two, three, or all four sessions. No registration is required and there is no charge. The programs are presented locally by Central Wyoming College, the National Museum of Wildlife Art, the Teton County Library Foundation, Sheridan College, and Gillette College. These class events are recorded on the University of Wyoming television YouTube channel.

State humanities councils in many states sponsor or support National History Day, the competitive national history program for middle and high school students, which was the recipient of a 2011 National Humanities Medal from President Obama. Oregon Humanities sponsors "Idea Lab," a three-day residential learning experience in which twenty high school teachers and over 100 rising seniors explore the pursuit of happiness through workshops, lectures, films, and discussions. The New York Humanities Council's Humanities Centers Initiative supports humanities institutes, faculty, and graduate students in their commitment to public engagement. There are Public Humanities Fellowships that allow advanced graduate students to explore the public application of their scholarly interests, Community Partnership Grants that bring together university humanities centers with the Council's local program partners and grantees to share knowledge and expertise, and Joint Advocacy that help ensure that the humanities at large speak with one voice in New York State. Indiana Humanities just completed a study, "Humanities at the Crossroads," a case study of Indiana's humanities "ecosystem." The first study of its kind, it sheds light on the organizations that support the humanities in Indiana and the connections among them.

Most state humanities councils support a speakers bureau that sends humanities professionals and living history actor/scholars around their state or jurisdiction to talk with people of all ages about a variety of humanities topics. Many of these speakers go to very small towns. Small towns in many states benefit from “Museum on Main Street” (MoMS), a collaboration between state humanities councils and the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition Service. Throughout the country, state councils sponsored over 2,400 exhibitions in 2013, reaching almost 6,000,000 people with this visually engaging humanities format. Councils are increasingly using digital and social media to communicate the humanities. The Kansas Humanities Council, for example, supports *Shared Stories of the Civil War*, prepared reader’s theater scripts about historic events in Kansas that are followed on Twitter. The Rhode Island Council for the Humanities has launched its pilot *Rhode Tour* historic tourism smartphone app in collaboration with Brown University, and Humanities Nebraska provides information about its annual Chautauqua program by means of a free smartphone app.

One of the ways councils expand their spheres of inclusion is through partnerships with public and private institutions and organizations. On its website, Indiana Humanities has a page devoted to its partners, listed by program. These partners include businesses, educational institutions, museums, community leadership groups, the Indiana State Library, the Farm Bureau, and the Indiana State Fair. The Virginia Foundation for the Humanities partners with all major state cultural entities, including the Library of Virginia, the Virginia Historical Society, the eleven Virginia Indian tribes, the Virginia Association of Museums, the State Council of Higher Education, and public and private colleges and universities. It also works with many departments of state government. The Arkansas Humanities Council’s partnership with the Central Arkansas Library System provides it office space in the Arkansas Studies Institute, a community that includes the Butler Center Archives, the University of Arkansas at Little Rock archives and public history program, the Clinton School of Public Service, and the *Oxford American* literary magazine. It manages the Education Minigrant program for the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation, and administers both the Arkansas Heritage Grant and the Small Museum Grant programs for the Department of Arkansas Heritage.

PRESERVATION AND ACCESS

FY 2016 Request: \$15,200,000

Programs/Grant Categories:

- Humanities Collections and Reference Resources
- Documenting Endangered Languages
- National Digital Newspaper Program
- Education and Training
- Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions
- Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections
- Our Common Heritage (new program)
- Research and Development

Through its Division of Preservation and Access, NEH provides leadership and support in the national effort to preserve and create access to cultural heritage resources that constitute the foundation for research, education, and public programming in the humanities. A substantial portion of the nation's cultural heritage and intellectual legacy is held in libraries, archives, and museums. These repositories, large and small, are responsible for preserving and making available collections of books, serials, manuscripts, sound recordings, still and moving images, material culture, works of art, and rapidly expanding digital collections. The challenge is great: to preserve diverse formats of materials that are threatened by factors inherent to their physical structures or by the environments in which they are housed; to train library and museum professionals in the latest, best practices; and to deliver these collections, and the cultural resources created from them, to the widest possible audience for scholarship and intellectual enjoyment.

Good stewardship of cultural resources requires equal attention to preservation and access. All of the division's programs focus on ensuring the long-term and wide availability of primary resources in the humanities. In this sense, research, education, and appreciation of the humanities depend on the foundational work of preserving cultural heritage materials and making them available to scholars, teachers, students, and the general public.

The Endowment's Preservation and Access division received 555 applications and made 145 grants in FY 2014. In FY 2015, an estimated 600 applications and 150 grants are anticipated. At the FY 2016 request level, we anticipate receiving approximately 700 applications and making 160 awards. The projected increase in the number of applications and awards in FY 2016 is due to the appearance of a new grant program, Our Common Heritage, to be jointly conducted by the Division of Preservation and Access and the Division of Public Programs.

Evaluating the Impact of Preservation and Access Grants

In 2013, the Endowment completed an assessment of grant outcomes and impact in its largest Preservation and Access grant program, Humanities Collections and Reference Resources, in order to gauge the level of success in carrying out projects and long-term impact of

the grants on research, education, and public audiences. A quantitative and qualitative survey of project directors of the previous ten years of awards in the program and an in-depth analysis of representative projects by external specialists revealed the following major long-term outcomes of these grants:

- Ninety-six percent of grant products were used by scholars, 95 percent by teachers, 93 percent by students, and 79 percent by the public.
- One-third of the projects surveyed led to book-length print publications, 40 percent of projects led to published articles, and one quarter to online publications and exhibitions.
- Seventy-five percent of the respondents reported that the awards served as an impetus for their institutions to continue preservation and access efforts beyond the grant period, and 62 percent leveraged the NEH award to obtain external funding for similar projects.
- Long-term impacts on grantee institutions included improvement of skills (87 percent), increased collaboration with other institutions (55 percent), and creation of permanent jobs (39 percent).
- Major publications, exhibitions, conferences, and other activities related to the projects continue to be undertaken even many years after the conclusion of the grants.
- Scholarly use of collections and resources made available through the program has led to the reinterpretation of historical events, leading figures, and previously held scholarly views.
- Processing collections for use by scholars has led to the discovery of new knowledge and hidden cultural treasures.
- Many funded projects have provided the sole means of access to fragile, valuable collections that have been closed to researchers and the public.
- Products of these grants have allowed members of the public to make a deeper connection with the cultural heritage of their region, state, or locality.

Programs/Grant Categories

Humanities Collections and Reference Resources

The Endowment provides grants to projects that preserve and create intellectual access to collections that, because of their intellectual content or value as cultural artifacts, are considered highly important to the humanities. Grants support the digitization of collections to enhance their accessibility, as well as the creation of significant reference works. Humanities Collections and Reference Resources awards also support preservation reformatting and de-acidification of humanities collections; arranging and describing archival and manuscript collections; and

cataloging collections of printed works, photographs, recorded sound, moving images, and other materials important for humanities research and education.

The program recently introduced a new grant subcategory: Humanities Collections and Reference Resources Foundations grants. These Foundations grants support the formative stages of planning, assessment, and pilot activities for initiatives to preserve and create access to humanities collections or to produce reference resources. Drawing upon the cooperation of humanities scholars and technical specialists, such projects can help cultural institutions prepare for establishing intellectual control of collections, develop plans and priorities for digitizing collections, solidify collaborative frameworks and strategic plans for complex digital reference resources, or produce preliminary versions of online collections or resources.

One such Foundations grant was recently made to the University of New Hampshire, where a group of scholars, librarians, web developers, and tribal historians is laying the groundwork for a new Web portal on Native American writings from the New England region. These include correspondence, oral histories, and other materials dating from the 18th century to the present. Three pilot projects are planned at small archives in Maine, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island to develop protocols and procedures for the eventual cataloging and digitization of these materials.

Grants to digitize humanities collections can lead to new interpretations of old data. For the past ten years, the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, Massachusetts, with NEH support, has been digitizing its vast collection of pre-1825 American election returns gathered by researcher Philip Lampi. The result of these efforts—"A New Nation Votes"—is a Web portal through which election data for the 25 states that were part of the Union in 1825 can be freely accessed. According to one user, "these voting records, formerly difficult to access, could pave the way for a comprehensive reassessment of early American political history." In addition to professional scholars, genealogists, journalists, students, and amateur historians also use this free online resource.

Another example of a Humanities Collections and Reference Resources grant that has helped to transform our understanding of a field is the online resource *Voyages: The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database*. In 2006, Emory University received an award to provide free, online access to data on 35,000 slaving voyages, constituting more than 80 percent of the transatlantic slave trade. Incorporating some forty years of combined archival research and building upon a framework of international scholarly collaboration, *Voyages* is regarded as one of the premier online sources for historical study of the transportation of enslaved Africans to the Americas. Emory received a subsequent NEH award for an associated project, the *African Origins Portal*, to provide online access to richly detailed individual-level data, such as name, height, age, sex, language, tribal scarification, country of origin, and port of embarkation for 90,000 Africans liberated from slaving ships between 1819 and 1845. This information, derived from archival records in Sierra Leone and Cuba, provides the specific ethnic and geographical origins of these individuals. When completed, *Origins* will enable researchers for the first time to understand the varied ethnic and social backgrounds of Africans in a way that parallels long-established approaches to studying European migrants during the same historical period.

Another project likely to attract wide attention is the effort, funded through a 2014 NEH grant, by the National Film Preservation Foundation in San Francisco to repatriate and restore 26 American silent films from the 1910s and 1920s. Currently located at the EYE Film Institute in the Netherlands, these non-fiction films include newsreels, travelogues, science shorts, and ethnographic studies. Such films are exceedingly rare; only a small fraction of those produced nearly a century ago have survived to the present. The content of these 26 films ranges widely, from documentaries about a Wisconsin dairy farm and a Massachusetts paper factory to early footage of National Parks in the West, and even include an ethnographic expedition to the Inuit in the Arctic. In the course of the project, the original films will be moved to repositories in the United States, where they will be restored and made freely available via the Internet.

Documenting Endangered Languages

The Endowment supports the creation of tools—such as bilingual dictionaries, grammars, and text collections—that document languages threatened with extinction. Of the 6,000 to 7,000 currently spoken languages, at least 3,000 are endangered, including hundreds of American Indian languages, which are our highest priority. These lesser known languages constitute an irreplaceable treasure for scholars who need to consider evidence from past and presently spoken languages in order to understand the nature of language or to capture unique local knowledge of the cultures and natural systems of the region in which it is spoken. As an effort to address this issue, in 2005 NEH and the National Science Foundation established a joint special initiative, “Documenting Endangered Languages.” Grants support fieldwork and other activities relevant to recording, documenting, and archiving endangered languages, including the preparation of lexicons, grammars, text samples, audio recordings, and databases.

In documentation projects involving endangered languages, academic linguists typically work closely with native speakers, many of whom are interested in learning more about their own cultural heritage and are eager to pass on information about their language to younger generations. An NEH award made last year is enabling scholars from the University of Colorado to join with members of the Arapaho community in neighboring Wyoming to create a database and dictionary of Arapaho, an endangered language of the Algonquian family that was originally spoken on the Great Plains of the United States. Arapaho is relatively well documented through texts and recordings, some collected by researchers and missionaries in the early 20th century and others obtained more recently by the project director himself working among native speakers. Yet, to date, an Arapaho language dictionary has never been produced. The number of Arapaho speakers has declined significantly in recent years, and interest in reviving the language is strong within the tribe. The timing of the NEH award is therefore fortuitous. When completed, the project will result in a full-scale dictionary for the Arapaho language available in both print and electronic form.

National Digital Newspaper Program

Newspapers chronicle the daily life of our citizens in towns and cities, and it is the stories of those towns and cities that together help to make up the history of our nation. They also document the civic, legal, historical, and cultural events in every region during the past 300 years. For over thirty years, the Endowment has committed to preserving the content of

historically important American newspapers—first through microfilm and now through digitization and online access. Beginning in 1980, NEH support enabled organizations and institutions in 50 states, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico to locate, catalog, and microfilm their historic newspaper holdings and to create a centralized bibliographic record of all newspaper titles published in America since 1690.

With digital technology, there is now a means of providing full-text searching of newspaper content. In pursuit of this objective, NEH and the Library of Congress signed a memorandum of understanding in 2004, renewed in 2009 and in 2014, establishing a partnership to create the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP). Under the terms of this partnership, over a period of approximately twenty years the Endowment will provide grants to an institution or organization in each state and territory to digitize titles published between 1836 and 1922 and to prepare fully searchable files that the Library of Congress will maintain permanently online.

The National Digital Newspaper Program is a complex undertaking that is being implemented in successive phases. To date, the NEH has provided support under this grant category for thirty-eight state projects, each of which is contributing approximately 300,000 pages of digitized newspapers published between 1836 and 1922. In July 2014, NEH welcomed two new state partners: Nevada and South Dakota. State awardees have reported to us that these projects have helped them develop the technical workflows and skills necessary for other challenging, large-scale digitization work. In Vermont, the newspaper project represents the largest digitization effort ever conducted in the state. The University of North Texas Libraries have used the knowledge and experience they gained through participation in this program to work with libraries and museums across Texas to digitize their community newspapers. The university has reached the milestone of over one million pages of historic Texas newspapers online in its Portal to Texas History and has raised \$400,000 from Texas foundations and community groups for the digitization of Texas newspapers.

Thus far, nearly nine million pages of historic American newspapers have been digitized through NDNP, with many millions more to follow. The selected pages, along with title essays and a directory of all newspapers published in the U.S. from 1690 to the present, are publicly accessible online through the *Chronicling America* website (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>). Many projects are now also digitizing U.S. newspapers published in French, German, Italian, and Spanish, thus providing access to the nation's vibrant ethnic and immigrant press. The program also allows the digitization of newspapers in Danish, Hungarian, Norwegian, Portuguese, and Swedish; more languages will be added in the future.

Preservation and Access Education and Training

Complementing the Endowment's support for preserving and establishing access to a variety of cultural resources are its grants for projects to increase the ability of the nation's libraries, archival repositories, and museums to care for their collections. NEH has always considered support for education and training to be an important component of its national preservation effort. It is necessary that stewards of humanities collections familiarize themselves with new developments in dynamic fields, such as digital technology and conservation science. For example, a recent award to the Rochester Institute of Technology supports training conducted by the Image Permanence Institute for the staff of museums, libraries, and archives on

more sustainable approaches for managing environmental conditions for humanities collections. Five regional workshops and nine webinars are planned for the next two years, in which participants will explore strategies for reducing energy costs and consumption without sacrificing the preservation quality of collection environments.

Grants are also made for preservation field services to help ensure that smaller cultural institutions across the country receive the kind of advice and knowledge they need to preserve their collections. For example, a recent grant to the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts in Philadelphia will support training activities for more than 1,000 cultural heritage professionals and support surveys, technical consultations, and the distribution of educational materials to libraries, archives, museums, and historical organizations across the country. Among the many workshops planned are ones on disaster planning and response; preservation of rare books, oral history materials, and ephemera; methods of integrating preservation into exhibition planning; and digital preservation.

NEH also supports academic programs that train the next generation of conservators responsible for protecting the nation's cultural heritage in museums, libraries, and archives. A recent award supports students enrolled in the Moving Image Archiving and Preservation Program at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. Stipends allow students to work as interns in the many cultural heritage institutions responsible for the care of audiovisual collections, many of which are neglected, deteriorating, and face imminent loss. Graduates of this highly regarded graduate program will assist institutions in making the transition from older media to digital formats and ensure that audiovisual materials remain accessible for humanities research and enjoyment.

For more than two decades, NEH has also helped museums, libraries, archives, and historical organizations improve their ability to plan and respond to disasters. Inadequate planning for emergencies remains a serious problem for the nation's cultural institutions. At present, four out of five cultural repositories in the United States lack disaster or emergency plans and the trained staff to carry them out. The Endowment helps to integrate emergency management into all aspects of a collecting institution's operations by supporting preservation education programs and the work of the regional preservation field services that provide the training needed to plan effectively for disaster preparedness and response.

For example, NEH is supporting the efforts of the Western States and Territories Preservation Assistance Service (WESTPAS) to help cultural repositories deal with floods, fire, earthquakes, and other disasters that could threaten their collections. A recent grant has enabled WESTPAS to provide a series of workshops and webinars on disaster planning for the staff of heritage institutions in eleven Western states and in the remote Pacific territories. Training sessions involve writing disaster plans, testing the plans to identify institutional vulnerabilities, and promoting networking to increase the effectiveness of disaster response. WESTPAS also offers free consultation to institutions with preservation needs, including 24/7 emergency phone and reference service.

The Endowment also provided much-needed emergency grants directly to educational and cultural institutions that were affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005, by historic floods in the Midwest in 2008, by Hurricane Irene in 2011, and by Hurricane Sandy in 2012.

Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions

Smaller cultural repositories constitute the large majority of collecting institutions in the United States. These organizations often lack the resources to address the preservation needs of their collections. The Endowment's Preservation Assistance Grants provide small and mid-sized libraries, archives, museums, and historical organizations with awards of up to \$6,000. Funds support on-site consultation by a preservation professional, enable staff to attend preservation training workshops, and help purchase preservation supplies and equipment. In the fourteen years since the program began, 1,803 grants have been made to institutions in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. More than 40 percent of these Preservation Assistance Grants represent a first award from the Endowment, good evidence that this grant program effectively reaches institutions not previously served by NEH.

Recent awards include a grant to the Intrepid Sea, Air, and Space Museum, which is located on the aircraft carrier USS *Intrepid*, docked in New York City. In active service between 1943 and 1974, the *Intrepid* was designated a National Historic Landmark and now serves as a floating museum. The Intrepid Museum also maintains the submarine USS *Growler*, a British Airways Concorde, the space shuttle *Enterprise*, and more than two dozen warplanes. The museum strives to reveal the "humanity behind the hardware," connecting the significant missions of the USS *Intrepid* with the lives of the individuals who served aboard the ship. As such, it has acquired a number of archival records. By providing training for two members of the museum's staff, who will attend a two-week institute sponsored by the National Archives and Records Administration in cooperation with the Library of Congress, the NEH is helping the Intrepid Museum build a foundation for the ongoing care of its collections.

The Smith River Rancheria is using its NEH award to carry out a preservation assessment of its collection of archival, ethnographic, archaeological, and audiovisual sources documenting the history and culture of the Tolowa-Dee-ni' tribe, located in Northern California. Materials include ceremonial dance items, tools, basketry, correspondence, and recordings of tribal elders that provide information on prehistoric and modern Tolowa traditions. The collection also comprises field notes, recordings, and other documentation about the tribe gathered by ethnographers. These materials are used for historical, archaeological, and ethnographic research and for assisting tribal elders and educators in sustaining use of the Tolowa language. A visiting preservation expert will assess the physical collections and environmental conditions both in their current storage space and in the newly planned interpretive center.

The care of humanities collections stored in historic structures presents particular preservation challenges. At the Los Alamos Historical Society in Los Alamos, New Mexico, Preservation Assistance Grant funds are being used to hire a conservator to do an assessment of the environmental conditions for humanities collections housed in several historic buildings—a 1913 homesteader's cabin, the 1918 infirmary and guest cottage of the Los Alamos Ranch

School, and the 1920s-era houses occupied by scientists J. Robert Oppenheimer and Hans Bethe during the Second World War. Visited by more than 35,000 visitors annually, the Los Alamos Historical Society preserves and exhibits documents, photographs, and artifacts that have had an impact on social, economic, political, and scientific developments of the 20th century related to the Manhattan Project.

Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections

Libraries, archives, museums, and historical organizations across the country hold collections of books and manuscripts, photographs, sound recordings and moving images, archaeological and ethnographic artifacts, historical objects, and art that facilitate research, strengthen teaching, and provide opportunities for lifelong learning in the humanities. The challenge of preserving such large and diverse holdings for current and future generations is enormous.

Ongoing conservation research in the United States and abroad demonstrates the value of preventive conservation measures, which typically include managing relative humidity and temperature levels in collection spaces, anticipating changes in conditions that may result from natural disasters, providing protective storage enclosures and systems for collections, and safeguarding collections from theft and fire. NEH support for preventive conservation helps ensure the long-term preservation of significant collections.

Cultural repositories are increasingly interested in being "green" and preserving both their humanities collections and the environment. The Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections program promotes preservation projects that are environmentally sensitive. To encourage such projects, NEH offers planning grants to develop sustainable preservation strategies that are based on an understanding of the materials in the collections, the performance of the building systems, the nature of the climate, the economic costs, and the impact on the environment.

Planning grants of up to \$40,000 allow institutions to gather interdisciplinary teams of professionals to explore new, cost-effective strategies for the protection of their humanities collections. Applicants may also request an additional \$10,000 to carry out one or more recommendations made by the interdisciplinary planning team during the course of the project itself. With NEH support, one such planning team will assemble at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, which houses more than a million photographs and hundreds of films documenting the history and culture of the American Southwest. Included are rare footage of Native American peoples in the region and early photographs of the Grand Canyon and other wilderness areas. Some collection items have appeared in documentary films, including Ken Burns's series on the national parks. Because visual materials are particularly susceptible to environmental degradation, the university will join with expert consultants to explore "green" approaches to ensure their survival in the future.

The library at the University of Notre Dame, located near South Bend, Indiana, is home to a rich and diverse collection of humanities materials, some dating back to the 15th century, and used by researchers, teaching faculty, and students. Particularly extensive are its holdings in church history and theology, Irish and Latin American studies, Italian literature, and sports

history. To ensure the preservation of these rare books and periodicals, staff from the library will join with consultants from the Image Permanence Institute in New York to gather information on environmental conditions in the underground vault where they are stored and to find sustainable ways to ensure the preservation of this valuable collection.

Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections also offers larger awards to implement preventive conservation measures, including the improvement of environmental conditions and storage of collections, and the installation of security and fire protection systems. A recent grant to the Gibbes Museum in Charleston, South Carolina, for example, is focused on improving storage conditions for its collection, which includes works of Southern art from the colonial era to the present. The museum is preparing to embark on a major renovation and expansion project that will result in restored exhibition halls, additional classrooms, and a new collection storage and study suite, which will be equipped with storage furniture acquired with NEH funding.

Another cultural institution with a regional focus and a strong commitment to sustainable preservation strategies is the Yellowstone Art Museum in Billings, Montana, which houses a varied collection of modern and contemporary art from Montana and the northern Rocky Mountains and Plains. With NEH support, the museum will install energy-efficient light-emitting diode (LED) lighting and occupancy sensors in its exhibition galleries, where collections are displayed.

Our Common Heritage (new grant category)

America's cultural heritage is preserved not only in libraries, museums, and archives, but also in all of our homes, family histories, and life stories. As part of the Endowment's new *The Common Good: The Humanities in the Public Sphere* initiative, we hope to capture this vitally important part of our country's heritage and preserve it for future generations through a new program called *Our Common Heritage*. Grants will support community events devoted to digitizing cultural heritage materials, such as family letters, historic documents, and historic artifacts, in addition to public programming related to local history. The highlight of these projects will be a day-long event, organized by community cultural institutions. Members of the public will be able to bring in heritage materials to be digitized on the spot by professionals. Contributors will be provided with a free digital copy to take home, along with their original materials. With the owner's permission, additional digital copies of these materials would be included in the institutions' historical collections. Photographs, documents, family letters, art works, historic artifacts, and audiovisual media would be among the many items eligible for digitization and public commemoration. Related public outreach could include an exhibition of historical materials, a screening of a relevant film, a presentation by a historian, or a curator's commentary on the items scanned. *Our Common Heritage* underscores the fact that members of the public, in partnership with libraries, museums, archives, and historical organizations, have much to contribute to the composition of our cultural mosaic, and together they can serve as effective partners in the appreciation and stewardship of our common heritage.

Preservation and Access Research and Development

Research and Development awards address major challenges in preserving or providing access to humanities collections and resources. Projects formulate new ways to preserve materials of critical importance to the nation's cultural heritage—from fragile artifacts and manuscripts to analog recordings and digital assets subject to technological obsolescence—as well as to develop advanced modes of discovering and using such materials. Research and Development grants may help, for example, to devise innovative ways to protect and slow the deterioration of humanities collections through the use of sustainable preservation strategies; develop technical standards, best practices, and tools for preserving humanities materials that are "born digital"; and ensure that collections of recorded sound and moving images that represent a major part of the record of the twentieth century will remain accessible to future generations.

Several recent grants focus directly on the preservation of moving image and sound recordings. With NEH support, Indiana University, in partnership with Boston's public television station WGBH, is developing a digital asset management system to merge the two organizations' complementary software platforms and to provide a flexible yet robust framework for cultural heritage organizations to manage their own audiovisual holdings. Another Research and Development project, at the University of South Carolina, is also working to preserve moving image and audio recordings. Its goal is to develop an open-source tool that enables more efficient digital preservation of optical sound motion pictures by reducing the time, and hence the cost, of digitizing films of significance such as documentaries, ethnographic field work, newsreels, and educational films.

The Image Permanence Institute at the Rochester Institute of Technology is a leader in conducting applied research in preventive conservation. With support from the Endowment, the institute is working to define the permissible limits of relative humidity and temperature for rare books, before irreversible damage occurs. This analytical work will give librarians their first reliable data on the tolerances of rare books and will allow them to make informed decisions on the management of their storage environments.

Through its Research and Development program, the NEH has supported the expansion of Unicode, an international standard that ensures consistent encoding, representation, and handling of text expressed in most of the world's writing systems. Supported by all modern-day computers and mobile devices, Unicode provides the critical foundation on which to preserve and provide access to humanities content by enabling a standard method to digitally scan, analyze, share, read, and compose texts. To date, Unicode has been applied to more than 100 writing systems from around the world, including many for languages that are no longer spoken. A Research and Development grant to the University of California, Berkeley, is currently supporting the preparation of 12 additional Asian and African scripts, both historical and modern, for inclusion in the international Unicode Standard. Among them are Nandinagari, a historic script from India found in Sanskrit manuscripts and inscriptions, and Garay, which was devised in 1961 to write the Wolof language of Senegal, Gambia, and Mauritania.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

FY 2016 Request: \$13,454,000

Programs/Grant Categories:

- Museums, Libraries, and Cultural Organizations
- Media Projects
- Bridging Cultures through Film: International Topics
- Digital Projects for the Public
- NEH on the Road

NEH's Division of Public Programs supports activities that engage millions of Americans in the study and interpretation of significant humanities works, ideas, and events. While all NEH projects are built on strong scholarship, the Public Programs division has a unique mission within the Endowment—to convey humanities scholarship to a diverse general public. At the center of every NEH-funded public program is a core set of humanities ideas developed by scholars, matched to imaginative, widely accessible formats that bring those ideas alive for people of all ages and all walks of life. Public humanities activities funded by the Endowment encourage dialogue, discussion, and civic engagement in communities across the nation. NEH supports a wide variety of interpretive formats, including museum and library exhibitions, reading and discussion series, television and radio documentaries, the interpretation of historic sites, and history and literature programs at hundreds of local libraries and cultural organizations.

A central goal of NEH's programs for the public is to help public audiences to reflect on the lessons of the past and grapple with contemporary issues, informed by the critical perspectives of the humanities. As the nation welcomes home veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan, including—for the first time in American history—women who have served on the battlefield, many projects funded by the Division of Public Programs will help Americans to understand the history, meaning, and experiences of war. *Journey to Normal: Women of War Come Home*, for example, is a documentary film supported at the development stage by NEH, which tells the compelling stories of female veterans returning home from military service. Scheduled to premiere in 2015, the film traces the experiences of women who served in the military in Iraq and Afghanistan—and their journeys as they re-adjust to civilian life. It focuses particularly on the consequences of women's military service for them, for their families, and their communities.

Over two years, from May 2013 to April 2015, New York University's Aquila Theatre is offering public programs at 20 locations across the nation with special outreach to American veterans and their families, drawing on the moving portrayals in Greek drama of the soldier returning home from war. As participants in Aquila's acting workshops and readings, veterans find expression for their own experiences with the trauma of war and the challenges of re-entering civilian life. The NEH project also includes several public events examining women's experience as soldiers and guardians of the home front, and features a mobile application, which is designed to let veterans upload stories and photographs. These stories will become part of the Veterans' Oral History project at the Library of Congress. NEH-funded museum exhibitions

also bring the perspectives of humanities scholarship to bear on the history and experience of war. For example, visitors to the Intrepid Sea-Air-Space Museum's *City at Sea* exhibition in New York City, opening in 2015, will learn about a sailor's life at sea by exploring nine restored spaces aboard the historic aircraft carrier. Developed with NEH planning and implementation grants, the exhibits will incorporate film and audio interviews with crew members to evoke the texture of everyday life for enlisted men, from World War II through the Cold War.

Created Equal: America's Civil Rights Struggle, an Endowment initiative, encourages public conversations about the changing meanings of race, equality, and freedom in American civic life. Launched in 2013 to coincide with the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, *Created Equal* provided a packaged set of NEH-funded films on Civil Rights history to 473 communities across the nation. Four powerful documentary films (*The Abolitionists*, *Slavery by Another Name*, *Freedom Riders*, and *The Loving Story*) are accompanied by a website (www.createdequal.neh.gov) offering curriculum resources for teachers as well as guides for community discussions. As part of the *Created Equal* project, a traveling Smithsonian exhibition, *Changing America: The Emancipation Proclamation, 1863 and The March on Washington, 1963* opened in February 2014 in Peoria, Illinois and Yanceyville, North Carolina. The exhibition is now traveling to fifty museum and public library venues across the nation, along with small grants from NEH to support scholar-led public discussions.

A fifth film was recently added to the *Created Equal* series: the NEH-funded documentary, *Freedom Summer*, which premiered on PBS in June 2014. Directed by award-winning producer Stanley Nelson, *Freedom Summer* explores the ten weeks in 1964 when more than 700 student volunteers from around the country joined a massive effort to register black voters, forcing the media and the country to take notice of the shocking violence and injustice taking place in Mississippi. *Freedom Summer* is a timely resource for *Created Equal* venues, providing historical perspective on the Civil Rights struggles of the 1960s.

From 2013 through 2016, more than 2,000 public programs supported by NEH will engage public audiences in all fifty states and the District of Columbia in exploring these themes. More than 250 communities have already held over 1,400 discussion programs as of July 2014, reaching 40,000 Americans. In many communities, *Created Equal* programs have brought black and white residents together in public conversations for the first time, and have introduced new audiences to museums, libraries and cultural organizations. At the Brooklyn Historical Society, for example, 44 percent of attendees reported that a *Created Equal* program was the first time they visited the Historical Society. The University of Dayton (in Dayton, OH) reported that people who attended their *Created Equal* programs appreciated "the opportunity to talk about issues of race that are often difficult to talk about when not moderated by a skilled facilitator." Of those who attended, 60 percent planned to return for another *Created Equal* film screening. In Cumberland County, Virginia, *Created Equal* programs "provided a safe environment to confront the very real racial tensions still existent in our community." An educator in Washington, DC, who organized a *Created Equal* screening commented, "It was uplifting to see small groups of my students talking with school leaders, teachers, parents, and other adults. . . . Particularly at the high school level, the opportunity to have students and their parents sitting around and talking about critical issues is rare."

Programs such as *Created Equal*—and countless others that provide opportunities for people to engage in lifelong learning in history, literature, comparative religion, philosophy, and other fields of the humanities—address the Endowment’s two strategic goals: to advance knowledge and understanding of the humanities in the United States and to provide national leadership in promoting the humanities in American life.

In FY 2014, 390 applications were received and 50 major awards were made, including 15 radio and television documentaries, with an additional 4 *Bridging Cultures* through Film: International Topics grants and 31 exhibitions and reading, viewing, and discussion programs. In addition, 25 NEH on the Road grants to museums were awarded.

In FY 2015, the Endowment expects to receive approximately 500 applications and to make 58 major awards, including 20 radio and television projects, with an additional 6 *Bridging Cultures* through Film: International Topics projects; 22 exhibitions or reading, viewing, and discussion programs; and 10 projects in the new grant category of Digital Projects for the Public. The Endowment also expects to support 31 museums hosting NEH on the Road exhibitions and to make up to 200 small grants for scholar-led public programs as part of the agency’s *Bridging Cultures: Latino Americans* initiative.

In FY 2016, 550 applications are anticipated, with 59 major awards, including 19 television and radio documentaries; 7 *Bridging Cultures* through Film: International Topics projects; 21 exhibitions and public discussion programs; and 12 Digital Humanities Grants for the Public. In addition, 30 NEH on the Road grants would be awarded to small and mid-sized museums.

Program Evaluation

The Division of Public Programs is in the midst of a multi-year assessment of its projects, which will yield data on the reach and impact of NEH-funded public humanities projects. Approximately half of funded projects currently engage in formal or informal evaluation. Many recipients of NEH planning grants, for example, use a portion of their planning funds to support front-end or formative evaluation, which museums typically employ to help shape the content and interpretive strategies of an exhibition. The Endowment’s application guidelines were revised recently so that an evaluation plan will now be required of all grantees. We have also begun a multi-year effort to redesign the final reporting form for grantees and to create an audience response survey and a division-wide database that will allow us, in the future, to collect both quantitative and qualitative data on the reach and the impact of NEH-funded public programs. A new, six-question audience survey is now being piloted at each of the 473 sites conducting film screenings as part of the *Created Equal* project.

In addition, we are conducting an evaluation of the combined effect of all grants made by the division in a single fiscal year. In August 2014, we asked grantees representing the approximately 400 funded programs that were available across the country in FY 2012 to provide data on the influence of their NEH-funded project on their institution and public audiences. This survey asks for information about the number and types of project activities and their locations, audience size, segments of the public served, learning outcomes achieved, and

public responses to NEH-supported public programs. Later in 2015, we will analyze the data received from this survey and conduct more in-depth case studies of select representative projects. This snapshot of one year's programs will enable the Endowment to provide a fuller and more accurate account of the impact of our grants on the American public, which will be compiled in a report to be completed by the end of fiscal year 2016.

Museums, Libraries, and Cultural Organizations

The Endowment is a major source of support for substantive humanities programs in the nation's historical and cultural institutions, such as museums, libraries and archives, historic sites, and community centers. These projects include exhibitions of artistic, cultural, and historical artifacts; the interpretation of American historic sites from Monticello to the Grand Canyon; reading and film discussion series in the nation's libraries; lecture series; and other lifelong learning activities.

Hundreds of NEH-sponsored exhibitions are on view each year at large and small museums and historical sites throughout the country, advancing public understanding of significant humanities ideas. In 2014, 196 permanent and traveling exhibitions were offered in 46 states and the District of Columbia. Audiences at fifty libraries across the nation will have the opportunity to see an original copy of Shakespeare's first folio, a 1623 collection of the Bard's plays. Considering issues such as the literary significance of the Folio, the history of Hamlet's "To be or not to be" speech, and the changing presentation of the printed word, this outstanding exhibition created by the Folger Shakespeare Library will make an important contribution to the international events in 2016 marking the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death.

NEH-funded museum exhibitions often serve as springboards for a range of creative public programs examining humanities ideas and presenting fresh scholarship to diverse public audiences. An ambitious project at the Mystic Seaport Museum, for example, interprets the far-reaching economic and cultural impact of whaling in the nineteenth century. In addition to a 4,000-square-foot exhibition about the country's whaling heritage that will open in 2015, the museum is sailing a historic 170-year-old whaling vessel—the Charles W. Morgan—to ports along the New England coastline. The ship, which was launched during the summer of 2014, has been greeted by more than 64,000 visitors who attended cultural festivals, lectures, and public programs about whaling. A smaller version of the exhibition will travel to ten maritime museums across the nation, accompanied by ongoing public programming.

Exhibitions supported by the Endowment encourage civic engagement at museums in thousands of communities across the nation, connecting audiences to their community's heritage and to each other. The History Center of Chattanooga, Tennessee, for example, has embarked on an ambitious new permanent exhibition: NEH support was crucial to helping the museum raise additional funds (a total of \$10.5 million) and undertake a larger, more innovative exhibition. Interactive kiosks and listening stations that present diverse views on the city's rich history are among the tools that will bring the city's complex past to life. Located on Chattanooga's historic riverfront, this landmark project, opening in 2015, promises to be a major tourist draw and a complement to the heritage walking tours and other programming in the area.

In 2014, three NEH-funded museum projects received the Leadership in History award from the American Association of State and Local History, the association's highest honor, recognizing museums that play an important role in preserving and interpreting community histories. The Rokeby Museum in Ferrisburgh, Vermont received the award for the NEH-funded exhibition, *Free and Safe: The Underground Railroad in Vermont*, which presents new scholarship on escaped slaves in northern states; Kent State University was recognized for exhibitions interpreting the events of May 4, 1970, when four student protesters were shot by the National Guard; and the Robert Russa Moton Museum in Farmville, Virginia was honored for the exhibition *The Moton School Story: Children of Courage*, which tells the vivid story of the student-led strike in 1951 that prompted a legal assault on Virginia's segregated schools. The high school that was once the site of that strike is now a National Historic Landmark.

The Endowment welcomes humanities projects that illuminate the connections between science, technology, and the humanities. Such projects enable Americans to understand science and technology by seeing them in relation to other areas of human inquiry and recognizing that science and technology are human activities subject to historical and cultural dynamics. Recent museum and library projects include the New York Botanical Garden's exhibition, *Darwin's Garden: An Evolutionary Adventure*, which brought an imaginative approach to understanding Charles Darwin's scientific achievement. This thought-provoking exhibit allowed visitors to examine plants as Darwin did, learning about genetic variation and evolution, while at the same time tracing broad changes in the intellectual life of the 19th century. *Palaces for the People: Guastavino and America's Great Public Spaces*, an exhibition created by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in collaboration with the Boston Public Library, explored the engineering innovation of Rafael Guastavino, a Spanish craftsman who came to the United States in 1881. Guastavino adapted fourteenth-century building technologies to the needs of the American city through the use of vaulted ceilings that employed lightweight, fireproof tiles and were remarkably strong, economical, and artistically exquisite, as seen in New York City's Grand Central Station.

Art exhibitions funded by NEH engage public audiences with art in new and creative ways. Recent museum exhibitions have examined a wide range of artistic and cultural traditions, from ancient Chinese bronzes to the native art of the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples of Alaska. *The Art of American Dance*, a multimedia traveling exhibition produced with NEH support by the Detroit Institute of Arts, will explore dance as a universal form of human expression that has inspired American artists for over a century and occupies a central place in America's history and culture. Another traveling exhibition, *Treasures from Korea: Arts and Culture of the Joseon Dynasty, 1392-1910*, is part of a cultural exchange agreement between the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the National Museum of Korea. This much-anticipated exhibition—on view in Philadelphia and Los Angeles in 2014 and Houston in 2015—offers American audiences the first comprehensive experience of masterpieces of Korean.

The Common Good: The Humanities in the Public Square

The Endowment's Museum, Libraries, and Cultural Organizations program will be an integral part of the agency's new initiative to highlight the critical role that humanities ideas can play in our public life:

Public Programs for Underserved Audiences

Many of the Endowment's projects in museums and libraries have made a profound difference in vulnerable communities—for example, discussion programs for incarcerated teens; family reading programs that help break the cycle of illiteracy by encouraging parents and children to read together; and museum exhibits that involve senior citizens in cross-generational dialogues. NEH support enables museums, libraries, and cultural organizations to reach underserved groups and to engage them in thoughtful consideration of humanities ideas. The New York Botanical Garden's exhibition *Emily Dickinson's Garden*, for example, was accompanied by workshops for teachers focused on teaching literacy through poems, and extensive outreach to underserved students in forty-nine Bronx schools.

Gente y Cuentos/People and Stories is a pioneering reading and discussion program that engages seniors and young people in juvenile detention centers with thoughtful discussions of short works of literature that are relevant to their lives. With NEH support, *Gente y Cuentos* offers opportunities for expression and reflection, “a chance to connect with other people” and a deeper understanding of literature. A librarian in Pima County, Arizona praised the teen program for providing “a communal atmosphere for learning about each other and the world of the short story; in a society where teens can so often become isolated and invisible, community is indeed a valuable outcome.” And a participant at Jersey State Prison recently commented, “I wish I had known about these stories sooner—I might not be here now if I had.”

Guided by the emphasis of NEH's new Chairman on broadening access to the humanities, the agency plans to extend and deepen its outreach to underserved and at-risk audiences, bringing the power of humanities education to those who need it the most. Beginning in January 2015, grant application guidelines for the Museums, Libraries, and Cultural Organizations program now specifically encourage proposals for public humanities programs that reach new, underserved, or at-risk audiences.

Community Engagement Projects

In FY 2016, as part of *The Common Good* initiative, the Endowment also will encourage public humanities projects that creatively involve people in discussing, reflecting on, and more deeply understanding an issue of pressing national importance.

Libraries, museums, and other cultural organizations are increasingly seen as “safe spaces” for public dialogue, providing unique points of intersection between the academic study of the humanities and civic engagement. Community Engagement Grants will support projects that draw on the power of the humanities to offer useful perspectives on difficult and complex questions facing Americans as members of communities and as citizens—such as inequality, immigration, health, and aging. Behind the rhetoric that surrounds contemporary debates are substantive questions that can be explored through the lens of ethics, history, literature, or philosophy—for example: What do we as citizens owe each other? What can we learn from the lessons of the past? Grants will support projects that meet the following criteria:

- Projects are guided and deeply informed by the perspectives of the humanities.

- Projects start conversations and inspire dialogue about issues of contemporary concern.
- At the heart of each project is a central set of humanities resources—for example, works of literature, museum artifacts, oral histories or documentary films—and a list of focused questions for public discussion.
- The project team includes humanities scholars with expertise directly related to the subject.
- Multiple points of view are considered in a thoughtful and balanced manner.

Museum Leadership Institutes

Finally, the Endowment is also launching an effort to identify and support the next generation of museum leaders. Our applicant pool has remained relatively stable, with the majority of NEH dollars supporting a cadre of experienced museums, libraries, and historical and cultural organizations that do exceptional work. In an effort to encourage fresh interpretive approaches and support new talent, however, the Endowment plans to convene the first NEH Museum Leadership Institute in FY 2016. Designed to introduce promising leaders in the museum field to models of innovative public humanities work, NEH Museum Leadership Institutes would convene museum professionals for hands-on training at leading museums and historic sites. Each year, Institutes would examine a different set of interpretive challenges, responding to pressing issues and interests in the museum field. The first Institute, planned in collaboration with NEH’s Office of Digital Humanities, will help museums interested in moving their collections and their audiences into the digital age.

Media Projects

NEH supports media projects that convey excellent humanities scholarship to millions of public television viewers and radio audiences. Programs present fresh interpretations of humanities subjects and provide stimulating and substantive educational opportunities for audiences of all ages. The Endowment also encourages creative approaches that expand the content and reach of television and radio programs—for example, through nationwide public programming or digital formats. To ensure that humanities themes and questions are well conceived, the agency requires that projects draw their content from humanities scholarship and use a team of scholars who are knowledgeable in the subject matter and represent diverse intellectual perspectives. NEH makes a unique contribution by fostering collaborations between media producers and scholars to create programs that deepen Americans’ understanding of the humanities.

Endowment-supported media projects continue to garner national recognition and awards for excellence. In 2014, two Endowment-funded documentary films, *Latino Americans* and *Many Rivers to Cross*, were recognized with prestigious George Foster Peabody Awards for excellence in media programming. Hailed as “a stirring history lesson” by *The Los Angeles*

Times and “impressive and long overdue” by the *Miami Herald*, *Latino Americans* is a three-part, six-hour documentary film that chronicles the rich and varied history and experiences of Latinos, who have helped shape the United States over the last 500-plus years and have become, with more than 50 million people, the largest minority group in the U.S. *The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross*, directed by Harvard scholar Henry Louis Gates, Jr., traces the history of African Americans across five hundred years and two continents, exploring the cultural institutions, political strategies, and religious and social perspectives that evolved in African American communities. In addition to a Peabody Award, the NEH-supported documentary *Freedom Riders* received three Emmy Awards—a rare achievement for a documentary film. Other films funded by the Endowment have been recognized by the Organization of American Historians and the American Historical Association for weaving together excellent, original scholarship with compelling storytelling. NEH-supported documentaries are often the subject of thoughtful articles and essays in popular and influential magazines and newspapers, including *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The New Yorker*, and *The Los Angeles Times*, attesting to the importance of substantive humanities films in the nation’s cultural life.

Many Endowment-funded documentary films invite public television audiences to re-examine familiar American stories in light of fresh scholarship. Three films will be broadcast in 2015 that present American television audiences with new perspectives on familiar topics. *The Pilgrims*, a two-hour documentary film directed by Ric Burns, will consider the well-known story of the men and women of the *Mayflower* against a more complex global backdrop. Scheduled for a Thanksgiving broadcast in both the United States and Britain, this film probes the interlocking forces—religious, economic, social, and political—that drove the Pilgrims’ journey across the Atlantic and ultimately shaped the American experiment. *Walt Disney*, a two-hour film now in production, promises a complex portrait of this iconic American figure, presenting Disney as a relentless entrepreneur, an innovator in the animation field, and a force on the American cultural landscape. *American Experience: Murder of a President*, a two-hour television documentary, uses the short-lived presidency of James A. Garfield as a lens to examine what historians have identified as a ‘transitional’ moment in American history, poised between the nation’s own post-Civil War isolation and its movement into global and technological modernity and, more broadly, world politics. Other documentaries in the final stages of production will illuminate diverse humanities subjects including the rise and fall of the Communist Party in the U.S. from 1920 to the Cold War; the experiences of Jewish American soldiers in World War II; and one of the great milestones in the history of flight—the crossing of the Pacific Ocean in 1935 by a Pan American Airways “flying boat” called the China Clipper.

NEH-funded films continue to engage and educate public audiences well beyond their initial broadcast. For example, the first six episodes of WNET’s *Shakespeare Uncovered* were broadcast between January 25 and February 8, 2013 and each episode was watched by an average of 805,000 viewers. Subsequently, at least twelve major market stations rebroadcast the series in its entirety, and ten public television stations expanded their audience with public programs conducted in collaboration with local Shakespeare festivals. For instance, Nashville Public Television produced short videos with the Nashville Shakespeare Festival and Nashville Ballet on directing, acting, choreographing and costuming Shakespeare. The St. Louis, Missouri, station made Shakespeare the theme of its annual arts event and covered the Shakespeare Festival St. Louis working on a production of *Twelfth Night*. Additionally, WNET produced

extensive educational materials for classrooms, including a Teacher's Viewing Guide. The educational resources have had 14,250 unique visitors. One of the most popular lessons plan was "Talking to Myself: Hamlet's Soliloquies." The series and the additional resources promise to be a valued educational tool for language arts and theater teachers for many years. The second season of *Shakespeare Uncovered* with an additional six programs will be broadcast in January, 2015.

Audiences abroad now have increased opportunities to view NEH-funded films, thanks to a collaborative effort of the Endowment and the U.S. Department of State. As part of an Interagency Agreement signed in 2013, NEH requires our Media grant recipients to provide films free of any license fees for public diplomacy purposes. By making these films accessible to audiences overseas, the interagency collaboration will extend the reach of NEH-funded documentaries and advance international understanding of American society, history, culture, and values.

Public Radio Programming

Public radio is an increasingly popular medium for audiences to engage with rich humanities content both on the radio and online, through podcasts and downloadable feature stories. Endowment-supported radio programs explore the lives of important individuals, ideas, and historical events. Recent projects include Studio 360's *American Icons* series, which examines significant moments in American literature, history, and art; and the *Audio History Project*, which has explained little-known chapters of twentieth-century American history and brought the past to life on public radio. Reaching 12 million listeners with a series of historical documentaries broadcast on NPR's *All Things Considered*, this program examines the broad themes of history and memory in America.

BackStory with the American History Guys is an excellent illustration of how critical NEH support can be for a fledgling public humanities project. *BackStory* is an hour-long radio program that features interviews and discussions with three eminent American historians on topics taken from today's headlines. These entertaining and enlightening programs are designed to provide perspective on the present by connecting current circumstances with the broad sweep of U.S. history. Begun as a local University of Virginia radio series with a modest reach, *BackStory* has expanded, with NEH funding, into a weekly public radio program with national carriage and a devoted online following (with 3 million unique podcast downloads). The Endowment's most recent grant to this project will support 22 episodes of a new series in 2015 and 2016, entitled "Finding the American Way." Through an innovative mixture of traditional radio broadcast, extended online shows and features, and an integrated educational package for teachers, "Finding the American Way" explores themes of work, religion, and public culture in the United States, combining rigorous scholarship with highly-accessible discussions of what it means to be American.

Online Distribution of NEH-Funded Media Programs

Currently the Endowment supports full-length documentary films that will be broadcast nationally, on PBS or major cable channels, because those venues promise large audiences.

However, public audiences are increasingly moving away from traditional television viewing and towards digital programming. In recognition of this shift, the Endowment will encourage projects that use digital avenues for reaching the broadest possible public. As a first step in this direction, beginning in January 2015, the agency's Media Grants guidelines will invite proposals for film and radio projects that are distributed online via dedicated web pages, online film festivals, and other platforms that are widely accessible to the public.

Bridging Cultures through Film: International Topics

Through its *Bridging Cultures* special initiative, the Endowment nourishes public curiosity about other cultures and nations beyond our borders. Launched in 2010, the *Bridging Cultures through Film: International Topics* grant category was created to address a misperception in the field: that NEH is only interested in films about American history and culture. Grants support documentary films that explore a critical issue in ethics, religion, or politics through an international lens; the life of a world leader, writer, or historical figure; or the history and culture of a specific region of the world. *Women, War and Peace: I Came to Testify*, the first *Bridging Cultures through Film* project to be broadcast, examined the impact on women of ethnic violence in the Balkans, documenting the first international tribunal to define sexual violence as a war crime. The initial broadcast reached over 3.6 million viewers, and the website and social media campaigns continue to deeply engage audiences across the nation. In the words of one viewer: "These are the kinds of stories that we don't know about. . . . I have heard from several friends who watched it—they were enlightened to know this story and to learn about the women."

We are very pleased with the enthusiastic response to this initiative, which has encouraged experienced filmmakers to consider new topics and to broaden the scope of their projects to include international collaboration. The grant program has also attracted lesser-known filmmakers, providing an opportunity for the Endowment to nurture new talent that will potentially have a long-term impact on the documentary film field. Of the 27 *Bridging Cultures through Film* grants made in five rounds of competition, the majority were awarded to filmmakers who had never received NEH support. Three films that recently received production support are scheduled to premiere in 2015. Airing on PBS in 2015, *1913* traces the unraveling of the Ottoman Empire and its complex effects on Palestinians and Jews. *Free to Rock*, a documentary about the impact of American popular music on the politics and culture of the former Soviet Union, features interviews with Mikhail Gorbachev, Jimmy Carter, Billy Joel, and others discussing the influence of rock and roll. *Nasser: An Egyptian Story* examines the pivotal and charismatic political leader, placing Nasser and Egypt within the larger context of Middle Eastern and Cold War politics. All three projects explore timely humanities issues, deeply informed by excellent scholarship.

Through a partnership with PBS to place selected *Bridging Cultures* films in foreign markets, we anticipate that international distribution of the films will bring the exploration of important international subjects in the humanities to expanded audiences.

Digital Projects for the Public

As media producers and historical and cultural organizations move into the digital age, the Endowment has recognized the need to respond to changes in how public audiences engage with humanities ideas. The formats traditionally supported by the agency—museum exhibitions, documentary films and public radio programs—are undergoing rapid change. Digital games, mobile applications, and other interactive platforms now offer a myriad of opportunities for active public engagement with humanities content. In recent years, many of the Endowment’s awards have fostered the use of new digital technologies to deliver humanities ideas to the public.

In June of 2014, the Endowment launched a new grant program specifically for digital humanities projects. We received over 70 applications (a strong showing for a brand-new program) and made the first round of grants November 2014. Support is provided for the following kinds of projects through this grant category:

- virtual field trips, which allow visitors to experience a historic site or museum collection remotely;
- mobile and web-based applications (this might include, for example, location-based tours of historic sites, heritage areas, art collections, or botanical gardens, as well as themed tours, such as apps allowing users to explore places related to the novels of William Faulkner or the antislavery movement);
- interactive online games for youth and family audiences; and
- innovative interpretive websites.

Regardless of format, the aim of every project funded through the Digital Projects program must be to deepen the audience’s engagement with humanities ideas and questions. We envision this grant category as an opportunity for NEH to play a leadership role, to encourage the integration of new digital technologies in traditional humanities spaces (such as museums and historic sites) as well as to foster the development of innovative, stand-alone digital projects with rich humanities content.

Out of the first round of Digital Projects for the Public grants, two stand out for their use of fresh scholarship married to digital technology and innovative audience engagement. *Pox in the City* is a 3-D strategy game whose interpretive framework for medical history is an elaboration of the idea that beliefs, practices, and treatments are shaped by the interaction of the healer, the patient, and the disease. Created through a partnership of Richard Stockton College and the Mütter Museum of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, the interactive format immerses players in the city’s rich history, as they experience the choices made by historical actors and constrained by scientific knowledge and cultural values. Historic Hudson Valley’s website project, *Slavery in the North* examines the history of slavery in the colonial North, with a special focus on individuality and resistance. The project interprets the experiences of enslaved people at Philipsburg Manor and in the Hudson Valley region during the eighteenth century to

tell a personalized story that illuminates the individuality of enslaved people and illustrates their agency as they resisted their enslavement.

Small Traveling Exhibitions

The Endowment is committed to extending the reach of high quality educational exhibitions to audiences throughout the country. To achieve this objective, the agency has for many years supported a program of small traveling exhibitions, delivering content-rich exhibitions and accompanying educational programs to more than 2,000 communities nationwide.

In calendar year 2014, eight small exhibitions traveled to 109 museum and library venues across the country, accompanied by small NEH grants to support public discussions and scholarly programs. In 2015, eight exhibitions in this category will travel to 99 sites. The exhibitions include *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War*, developed by the National Constitution Center, which offers a fresh perspective on the political and constitutional challenges presented by the Civil War. New in 2015, *Dust, Drought and Dreams Gone Dry* features a traveling exhibition of 300 square feet and a series of programs designed to help public audiences engage in discussions about the human and ecological consequences of one of America's greatest environmental disasters.

The Endowment administers these small grants as part of a single, larger block grant to a sponsoring organization, such as the National Constitution Center, which has the resources to design and fabricate exhibitions and conduct a nationwide tour. For the *Created Equal* project, for example, a major grant to the Gilder Lehrman Institute for American History is supporting 473 small grants of \$1,200 each to the venues that host public screenings of the *Created Equal* film sets. The 473 venues represent a diverse range of institutions serving rural, urban, and suburban regions in all 50 states, including public libraries, museums, NAACP chapters, African-American heritage sites, multicultural centers and state humanities councils. Individual sites have organized film screenings, book discussions, theatrical productions, interviews with former activists and intergenerational dialogues, exploring topics that range from the history of fair housing to women in the abolitionist movement. Whether located in large metropolitan areas such as New York City and Los Angeles, or in small rural enclaves like Starke, Florida (population: 5,379), these cultural organizations serve constituents for whom the central themes of the *Created Equal* films clearly have powerful resonance.

In FY 2015 and 2016, the Endowment is also allocating funds for small program grants as part of the *Latino Americans* film project. In collaboration with the American Library Association, NEH is developing a national public education project to extend and deepen public discussion around the themes of the *Latino Americans* series, initially broadcast on PBS in September 2013 with major support from NEH. Modeled on *Created Equal*, these small grants will support screening and discussion programs at public television stations, libraries, and other non-profits across the nation focused on the themes of the film series.

Another small grant program, NEH on the Road circulates scaled-down versions of previously funded exhibitions to mid-sized museums throughout the country. The program

extends the life of funded exhibitions by several years and also brings excellent humanities projects to rural and underserved regions of the nation. NEH provides support to each host site, awarding small grants for local public programming and scholarly activities. NEH is particularly interested in reaching museums that have annual operating budgets of between \$250,000 and \$1,000,000 and are located in communities of fewer than 300,000 people.

Since the first NEH on the Road exhibition opened in 2005, 14 exhibitions have traveled to more than 200 venues in 41 states, bringing intellectually engaging humanities programs to approximately 1.3 million individuals in communities that are typically not served by other NEH grants. For example, *Wild Land: Thomas Cole and the Birth of American Landscape Painting*, which explores the origin of the distinctively American Hudson River School of painting, opened in 2011 at the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History in Texas and is now booked well into 2015. When the exhibit traveled to the Ravalli County Museum in Hamilton, Montana, the staff commented, “*Wild Land* was stunningly enticing, well designed and informative! [The exhibition] broadened our members’ and Board’s perception of our potential, brought pride to our staff members both paid and volunteer, increased our reach beyond our county, and educated our staff.”

A public library in North Little Rock, Arkansas, hosted the NEH on the Road exhibit, *Our Lives, Our Stories: America’s Greatest Generation*, and was overwhelmed by the positive response to the exhibit from senior citizens, who shared memories of loved ones who served their country during World War II. As the director explains, “For us, it was an education in preserving the past for future generations. We deeply appreciate how a program like this supports the needs of smaller museums and local libraries such as ours.”

As these comments attest, NEH on the Road exhibits leave a lasting imprint on the communities that they visit. Small museums use the exhibitions to forge new partnerships and to strengthen ties with their Boards and communities. Public programs around NEH on the Road exhibitions promote reflection about important humanities ideas, and connect audiences across the boundaries of culture and generations.

Launched in 2013, *House and Home* traces the nation’s architectural history through the diverse places that Americans have called “home,” and *American Spirits*, which began touring in 2014, chronicles the history of Prohibition, from the dawn of the temperance movement to the unprecedented repeal of a constitutional amendment in 1933. Future NEH On the Road projects now under development include *Bandits and Heroes, Poets and Saints*, an exhibition of folk art from the Northeast region of Brazil; and *The Power of Children*, which tells the stories of three children whose lives made a difference in twentieth-century history: Anne Frank; Ruby Bridges, who in 1960 was the first African-American child to attend an all-white school in the South; and Ryan White, an American teenager who became a national symbol for HIV/AIDS activism after being expelled from middle school because of his infection. For fiscal year 2016, the NEH On the Road program would reach approximately 35 venues nationwide and would offer opportunities for lifelong learning to tens of thousands of museum and library patrons.

RESEARCH PROGRAMS

FY 2016 Request: \$14,536,000

Programs/Grant Categories:

- Programs Supporting Individual Research
 - Fellowships
 - Summer Stipends
 - Documenting Endangered Languages
 - Awards for Faculty at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges and Universities
 - Public Scholar Program (new grant category)
- Programs Supporting Collaborative Research
 - Scholarly Editions and Translations
 - Collaborative Research
 - Fellowship Programs at Independent Research Institutions

In the Endowment's inaugural annual report to Congress in 1966, Chairman Barnaby Keeney listed the first two objectives of the young agency as "the development of individual scholars" and the "development and dissemination of knowledge of the humanities through research and other scholarly activities." Developing knowledge and advancing understanding in the humanities remain core strategic goals of NEH and the principal mission of the agency's Division of Research Programs.

The nature of humanities research is incremental. Ideas are revised and refined through sustained thought, deep archival research, and prolonged engagement with the ideas of the past. Thus, the scholarly impacts of NEH grants are often realized well after grant funds are spent. Awards made in FY 2016 by the Endowment's Division of Research Programs will shape the understanding of scholars and the larger public for years to come. Funding humanities research is, therefore, an investment in the long-term future and vitality of American thought and the advancement of knowledge.

Given the long-term benefits of humanities research, it is vital that the Endowment uphold the highest standards of excellence for those seeking support for scholarly projects with major intellectual significance. NEH grants for advanced research in the humanities are among those most coveted by American scholars. The Endowment supports research by individual scholars (Fellowships, Summer Stipends, Documenting Endangered Languages, Awards for Faculty, and Public Scholar Program); long-term, complex projects carried out by teams of scholars (Scholarly Editions and Translations and Collaborative Research); and focused, individual projects that draw upon the collections and expertise of leading humanities institutions and overseas research centers (Fellowship Programs at Independent Research Institutions).

Grants support projects in all areas of the humanities from history, philosophy, and literature to classics, religion, and archaeology, as well as those areas where humanistic inquiry

intersects with the sciences, medicine, and technology. NEH-supported scholars illuminate important historical moments that inform students, scholars, and policy-makers about the world in which they live. For example, Giancarlo Casale, associate professor of history at the University of Minnesota, received support to write *The Ottoman Age of Exploration* (Oxford University Press, 2013), a study of Ottoman maritime explorations in the Indian Ocean occurring while European powers were colonizing the New World and vying for supremacy in the Atlantic. The Ottoman Empire's seagoing prowess in the Indian Ocean established the geographical foundation for today's Muslim world. J. Douglas Smith, an independent scholar and high school teacher living in Los Angeles, received support to write *On Democracy's Doorstep* (Hill and Wang, 2014), the first historical account of the Warren Court's efforts to define the principle of "one person, one vote" in the United States. Smith examines several cases—some all but forgotten—that continue to shape the Court's thinking on voting rights. Billy G. Smith, a professor of history at Montana State University, received Endowment support to research and write *Ship of Death: A Voyage That Changed the Atlantic World* (Yale University Press, 2013), a deeply archival study of how well-meaning British colonists sought to establish colonies of freed slaves in the Atlantic World. Aboard the ship *Hankey*, they traveled to West Africa, the Caribbean, and North America. Using diaries, letters, and newspaper accounts, Smith traces the ship as it inadvertently transported Yellow Fever from the African continent to the New World, creating one of the first modern pandemics.

An informed examination of our nation's history would not be possible without the basic building blocks of scholarship. For instance, in David Brion Davis's magisterial *The Problem of Slavery in the Age of Emancipation* (Alfred A. Knopf, 2014), the author praises the Endowment's support for his research over a long career, which included winning a Pulitzer Prize for an earlier NEH-supported book on slavery. NEH-funded scholarly editions projects—such as the writings of Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, Marcus Garvey, Frederick Douglass, and Benjamin Franklin—enable scholars like Professor Davis to tell the story of race, slavery, and emancipation in the U.S. Indeed, the agency is a major source of funding for authoritative editions of the papers of the country's most important historical figures, including civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr.; political and military leader George C. Marshall; Hull House founder and humanitarian Jane Addams; scientist Albert Einstein; American icon of the early West, William "Buffalo Bill" Cody; and such notable statesmen as John Jay, George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and the several Revolutionary-era statesmen of the Pinckney family of South Carolina. NEH also supports editions of the writings of quintessential American authors such as Ernest Hemingway, Willa Cather, Mark Twain, and Emily Dickinson. American scholars also receive funding to edit the work of thinkers, writers, and artists from other countries, including, for example, the operatic works of maestro Giuseppe Verdi, the papers of essayist and historian Thomas Carlyle, and the works of German philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer. These authoritative editions provide scholars with the raw materials of scholarly inquiry, and their growing availability on the World Wide Web means greater access for the general public, as well as for teachers and students in classrooms worldwide.

One area of traditional humanities endeavor that has enjoyed resurgence in the last decade has been biography. In recent years, the Endowment has supported several new biographies. For example, Dee Clayman, a professor of classics at the City University of New

York, received a grant to research and write the first biography of Queen Berenice II (c. 264-221 BCE), a woman who had access to the cultural riches of both Greece and Egypt, navigated the political dangers that arose after the death of Alexander the Great, and inspired an Egyptian artistic and literary renaissance. Christoph Irsmscher, professor of English at Indiana University, received an award to write the biography of Louis Agassiz (1807-1873), considered the founder of American science. Irsmscher's research documented Agassiz's efforts to encourage average Americans to observe and collect specimens of the biological diversity of North America, but also revealed his commitment to racist ideologies. Miriam Pawel, an independent scholar living in California, used Endowment support to conduct archival research on the rise of Cesar Chavez (1927-1993) from migrant worker to national labor figure. Pawel spent thousands of hours transcribing audio recordings of Chavez's meetings and reading interviews and accounts from his friends and foes. While hagiographic treatments of Chavez have become common, Pawel's biography exposes both the strengths and weaknesses of an influential and controversial advocate for the welfare of farm laborers.

The Endowment long ago began encouraging applicants to harness the vast potential of advanced digital technology in the conduct and dissemination of their research. At first, this typically meant putting the results of research on a publicly available website. Now, however, the use of technology is a given, and humanities researchers are at the forefront of new ways to employ this technology. For example, a grant to Donald DeBats of the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities supports the use of database technology to re-create the political and social history of small cities in Virginia and Kentucky during the mid-19th century. Both states recorded the voice votes of citizens on local, state, and national elections, and DeBats and his international team of collaborators are using voting records, tax records, and census data to understand why communities voted as they did. The data will be made freely available online and will serve as the basis for several publications. A grant to Marina Rustow of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, will support the digital re-assembly of the medieval "Cairo Geniza" storeroom, a collection of almost 330,000 pages of legal and administrative documents that cover legal codes in the Middle East written in Arabic, Judeo-Arabic, Hebrew, and Aramaic. Rustow and her international team of scholars must rely on digital technology to bring together documents that have been dispersed among libraries and museums around the world. The result will be an open-access translation of the documents, available to scholars and the general public alike.

Programs Supporting Individual Research

American scholars in the humanities are among the most productive, innovative, and respected in the world. They lead their fields of inquiry, advancing all areas of the humanities into the future. However, they need what all scholars need: time to conduct basic archival and library research, to read and analyze materials, and to write in a way that communicates insights that are both important to scholarship and accessible for a broad readership. NEH support of individual scholars, although relatively modest in terms of dollars, offers this most basic commodity: NEH summer stipends and fellowships provide scholars with two to twelve months of support to carry out sustained research and writing on topics in the humanities.

Since the first years of the Endowment, the agency's programs in support of individual research and scholarship have proven to be an effective and efficient means of supporting humanities research, resulting in the publication of nearly 8,400 books. While books (including books in electronic format) and scholarly articles are most often the goal of those applying for NEH awards, grantees report that their scholarly publications often provide access to new audiences, allowing them to publish in popular presses, make presentations to both specialized and general audiences, and draw on their research to enrich their teaching. For example, Sean Latham, professor of English at the University of Tulsa, reported that his award afforded him "the chance not only to visit primary archives but to expand the potential range and depth" of his work. He added that such support guards against "monographs that too often become narrow in focus as a result of financial and professional constraints." Latham published a study of how libel laws helped shape early 20th-century literature titled *The Art of Scandal: Modernism, Libel Law, and the Roman a Clef* (Oxford University Press, 2009).

In FY 2014, NEH awarded 161 Fellowships and Stipends from a pool of 2,087 applications. In FY 2015, 202 awards are anticipated from an applicant pool of 2,365. At the proposed budget level in FY 2016, the Endowment expects to award 202 grants from approximately 2,400 applications.

Program Evaluation

In 2012, the Endowment concluded a large-scale evaluation of the NEH Fellowships program, focusing on outcomes and impacts of awards made from 2002 through 2004. The public version of the report is available on the Endowment's website (http://www.neh.gov/files/divisions/research/2002_2004_nehfellowships.pdf). The findings of the evaluation were impressive. Within seven years of the close of their grant periods, 96 percent of surveyed fellows reported publishing a book or article as a result of their grant, and over 70 percent of all awards resulted in major book-length publications. Moreover, awardees reported overwhelmingly that their grants allowed them the time to conduct deeper, more meaningful research than otherwise would have been the case and to write clearer, more widely accessible books and articles. Almost 80 percent of fellows reported that their grants enabled them to leverage additional support from their employers or other grant-making institutions, and over half found that their NEH-supported research had direct, immediate implications for their teaching.

In FY 2015, the Endowment anticipates issuing the results of the recent evaluation of its Summer Stipends program. This undertaking picks up where the Fellowships evaluation left off, with a widened scope and longer time-frame that will provide a more comprehensive view of the dissemination of funded projects. Beyond this, the evaluation will measure the impact that shorter, smaller awards have on scholarship and the ways in which awards to individual researchers have an impact on college and university campuses.

The Summer Stipends evaluation project is already re-orienting the way the agency thinks about the grants it makes. By looking at awards made twenty years ago, the "arc" of scholarship and how ideas nurtured with NEH money get into larger circulation are becoming much clearer. A grant made in 1994, for example, likely produced a publication five or six years

after the award. By examining citation indices, NEH staff members have been able to trace how these books are used by other scholars. Typically, the ideas in a humanities book are not cited for seven to ten years as scholars discover them and test their validity.

Fellowships and Summer Stipends Program

NEH Fellowships and Summer Stipends are awarded to a wide range of scholars in diverse settings, from colleges and universities to research institutes, as well as to independent scholars without teaching appointments. For example, Nathaniel Levtow, associate professor of religion at the University of Montana, received a fellowship to study how and why ancient civilizations deliberately destroyed some of their own texts. Sara Brenneis, assistant professor of Spanish at Amherst College, received a fellowship to write the first history of the Mauthausen concentration camp, which was used to imprison Spaniards during WWII. Jeffrey Einboden, associate professor of English at Northern Illinois University, received a fellowship to explore the Muslim influences on early American authors, such as Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, and Washington Irving. Danny Noorlander, an independent scholar living in Beloit, Wisconsin, received a summer stipend to write a history of the relationship between religion and business in powerful Dutch colonies—such as New Amsterdam—during the 16th and 17th centuries. And Andrew Casper, assistant professor of art history at Miami University in Ohio, will use his summer stipend to study the changing status of the Shroud of Turin as an object of art and devotion since its first public exhibition in 1578.

Products of NEH-supported projects appeal to a broad readership. Recent notable examples include Jules Witcover's *The American Vice Presidency: From Irrelevance to Power* (Smithsonian Books, 2014). Witcover, an independent scholar and journalist, examines the biographies and achievements (or lack thereof) of all forty-seven Vice Presidents in order to better understand how the office has evolved since John Adams served as George Washington's first Vice President. James Turner, a professor of history at the University of Notre Dame, received an award to conduct research and write *Philology: The Forgotten Origins of the Modern Humanities* (Princeton University Press, 2014), a sweeping work that argues that the study of languages and texts led to the modern humanities and the rise of the modern university. Turner examines the work of Greek scholars and rhetoricians through the Middle Ages, Renaissance, and the Enlightenment. In this history, he finds the development of the modern departments and disciplines and makes the case that their shared background "gives all the humanities a collective integrity."

NEH-supported publications often win academic, scholarly, and literary prizes, such as Pulitzer Prizes for history and biography, National Book Awards, the Bancroft Prize (generally recognized as the most prestigious award in the field of American history), and other awards for intellectual distinction. In 2014, Ari Kelman's *A Misplaced Massacre: Struggling Over the Memory of Sand Creek* (Harvard University Press, 2013) received both the Bancroft Prize for best book in American history and the Organization of American Historians' Avery O. Craven Award for most original book on the U.S. Civil War years. In *Misplaced Massacre*, Kelman recounts how Colorado troops surprised Cheyenne and Arapaho people camped on the banks of Sand Creek in late November, 1864. Since the book illuminates the many different memories, viewpoints, and perspectives that attend the story of Sand Creek from the time it occurred to the

more recent discussion of how to commemorate the event, it is, as one reviewer noted, an exploration of how history is made. Several other NEH-supported books recently received prizes including Christian K. Wedemeyer's *Making Sense of Tantric Buddhism* (Columbia University Press, 2013), which received the American Academy of Religion's prize for outstanding historical scholarship; Claudia Johnson's *Jane Austen's Cults and Cultures* (University of Chicago Press, 2012), which won Phi Beta Kappa's Christian Gauss Award for outstanding work of literary scholarship; and Janina Safran's *Defining Boundaries in al-Andalus: Muslims, Christians, and Jews in Islamic Iberia* (Cornell University Press, 2013), which won the American Historical Association's Premio del Rey Prize for best book on Spanish history.

Awards for Faculty at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges and Universities

In response to several Presidential Executive Orders, the Endowment provides opportunities specifically for faculty members at historically black colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, and tribal colleges and universities. The Awards for Faculty program provides flexible grants to better serve the unique needs of scholars at these institutions who struggle to maintain their credentials as scholars while teaching under the most challenging conditions. The program supports a variety of research efforts that lead not only to publication, but also to classroom enrichment or public programs. Awards have supported work on a wide variety of topics by scholars from a range of institutions. For example, Candace Bailey, a professor of musicology at North Carolina Central University, received an award to conduct research on the place of music in the lives of women in America during the Civil War. And Jose Carlos de la Puente, professor of history at Texas State University-San Marcos, was awarded a grant to complete the first in-depth study of the influence of native Andeans on the Spanish throne in the 16th and 17th centuries.

Public Scholar Program

Humanities scholarship can be specialized, and advances in knowledge often occur within the scholarly communities. However, as ideas mature and new topics become important to the public, scholars discover opportunities to reach out to new audiences. As part of the Endowment's *The Common Good* initiative, the Public Scholar Program aims to encourage scholars to write for a broad audience, provide easy access to humanities ideas, and make a lasting impact on public understanding. Such scholarship might present a narrative history, tell the stories of important individuals, analyze significant texts, provide a synthesis of ideas, revive interest in a neglected subject, or examine the latest thinking on a topic.

By establishing the Public Scholar Program, NEH enters a long-term commitment to encourage humanities scholars to write for general audiences. In the early rounds of the competition, NEH is encouraging applicants who are in the writing stages of their projects or who already have a commitment from a publisher. However, the Public Scholar program also supports projects in earlier stages of development. In FY 2015, the Endowment will conduct a pilot competition with approximately five awards; in FY 2016, NEH hopes to double the number of awards.

Ongoing Partnerships with Other Agencies and Institutions

NEH's system of peer review is widely respected for its fairness and rigor, and it is therefore fitting that other government agencies have sought the expertise of the Endowment to help them deliver large-scale peer review for individual scholars. With nearly fifty years of experience in evaluating scholarship, the Endowment has entered into three strategic partnerships that further extend the agency's mission to support individual research.

NEH/National Science Foundation: Documenting Endangered Languages

In FY 2016, the Endowment will continue its multi-year funding partnership with the National Science Foundation to provide awards to scholars engaged in recording and archiving key languages before they become extinct. This collaborative program, Documenting Endangered Languages (DEL), is made urgent by the imminent demise of an estimated half of the 6,000 to 7,000 currently used languages worldwide. DEL fellowships support fieldwork and other activities relevant to recording, documenting, and archiving endangered languages, including the preparation of lexicons, grammars, texts, and databases—usually in partnership with the peoples whose languages are in jeopardy. Examples of recent projects supported by awards include the effort by Keri Eggleston, an independent scholar living in Juneau, Alaska, to document the Tlingit language spoken in southeast Alaska. And Jeffrey Davis, an associate professor of teacher education at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, received an award to complete a linguistic database of Plains Indian sign language, developed and used by Blackfeet, Crow, Assiniboine, and Northern Cheyenne tribes. Projects such as these not only document languages, they often help the language and provide native communities with a heritage for succeeding generations.

Library of Congress: John W. Kluge Fellowships Program

Since 2003, the Endowment has administered the evaluation of applications submitted to the Library of Congress's John W. Kluge Fellowships Program. This program provides stipends to junior scholars from the United States and abroad to conduct research in America's richest and most extensive humanities collections. The Kluge Center—a privately endowed center for scholars working in the collections of the Library of Congress—pays for the awards and for the costs incurred by NEH staff to conduct the peer review of applications. The Endowment's collaboration with the Library of Congress also provides for the opportunity to fund fellowship awards jointly, thereby extending the impact of both the Endowment and the Library.

Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission: Fellowships for Advanced Social Science Research on Japan

Since 2004, NEH has administered the evaluation of applications and serves as fiscal agent for fellowships awarded by the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission. These awards encourage American scholars to pursue advanced social science research on contemporary Japan, the historic relationship between the U.S. and Japan, and the evolving relationships of Japan and its East Asian neighbors. Like the Endowment's collaboration with the Library of Congress, its

partnership with the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission provides the opportunity for jointly funded fellowship awards and helps to extend the impact of both partners.

Programs Supporting Collaborative Research

Modern scholarly endeavors increasingly require the collaboration of many researchers working across a wide range of specialties or scholars working together in research centers and archives. The Endowment nurtures such collaborative efforts through three programs—Scholarly Editions and Translations, Collaborative Research, and Fellowship Programs at Independent Research Institutions.

In FY 2014, the Endowment made 47 awards in Scholarly Editions and Translations, Collaborative Research, and Fellowship Programs at Independent Research Institutions from a pool of 262 applications. In FY 2015, 45 awards are anticipated from 290 applications received. At the FY 2016 request level, the agency anticipates making 44 awards from a pool of approximately 290 applications.

Scholarly Editions and Translations

Scholarly Editions and Translations grants support the preparation of important texts and documents of enduring value that otherwise would be relatively inaccessible to scholars and the public. Scholarly editions projects involve significant literary, philosophical, and historical materials, with the majority being in U.S. history and literature. Most are produced in print editions but increasingly also in a variety of digital formats. Recent grants have supported, for example, editions of the papers of such major historical figures as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, Eleanor Roosevelt, Abraham Lincoln, Andrew Jackson, Jefferson Davis, Ulysses S. Grant, and Thomas Edison, and such literary and cultural figures as Mark Twain, Willa Cather, and William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody.

Other teams of researchers are preparing editions of documents important to the nation's history. For example, NEH has supported *The Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights* project at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, which is collecting and publishing the documentary record of the debate over the ratification of the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights between 1787 and 1791. The project staff has searched hundreds of libraries, historical societies, and other possible sources throughout the United States and Europe for documents written by members of the Constitutional Convention of 1787, the Confederation Congress, the thirteen colonies that called ratifying conventions, members of those ratifying conventions, and other contemporaries. *The First Federal Congress Project* at the George Washington University in Washington, D.C., has been publishing the complete record of the First Federal Congress, 1789-1791, including official records and primary material such as letters and diaries that document the actions, debates, and thoughts of that precedent-setting body and its members. The proceedings of the first congress form a unique and remarkable record of the hopes and fears of contemporaries about the health and future of the young republic. The *Documentary History* and *The First Federal Congress* projects provide powerful research tools, and the quality and variety of their materials underscore the assertion

that the debate over the Constitution forms the greatest body of political writing in American history.

Editions projects also make accessible the records of great cultural, literary, and intellectual achievements. For example, recent NEH support has gone to the Ernest Hemingway Project at Pennsylvania State University under the direction of eminent scholar and editor Sandra Spanier. With the exception of Mark Twain, few authors have reflected American values and had an impact on American literature to the extent that Hemingway has: He achieved literary fame before the age of 30, received a Pulitzer Prize for *The Old Man and the Sea*, and was awarded a Nobel Prize in literature. With a team of eight editors, Spanier has produced the first two of a projected fifteen volumes of correspondence between the American literary giant and Ezra Pound, Gertrude Stein, Pablo Picasso, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and James Joyce, among others. Volume 2, published in late 2013, examines Hemingway's life in Paris in the 1920s, where he befriended other members of the "lost generation" and published his first three books, including *In Our Time* (1925). The correspondence reflects his discovery of a lifelong passion for Spain and the bullfight, which he quickly transformed into fiction as *The Sun Also Rises* (1926). Future volumes will help us better understand his other major works of literature and journalism, including *A Farewell to Arms* (1929) and *For Whom the Bell Tolls* (1940). Cambridge University Press has committed to publishing the volumes.

The Scholarly Editions and Translations program also supports a number of projects relating to the history, theory, and criticism of the arts. For example, the *Music of the United States* (MUSA) project is documenting the rich legacy of American music and making that music available to study and performance. Under the co-directorship of Mark Clague of the University of Michigan and Gayle Sherwood Magee of the University of Illinois, MUSA is currently publishing volumes 27-30 of the anticipated 40 volume set. The upcoming volumes include the pioneering Latin jazz music of Machito and His Afro-Cubans, nineteenth-century folk music by Irish and British immigrants, the first Jewish-American opera, Stephen Sondheim's *Follies*, and Mexican-American folksongs from California. MUSA is a collaborative venture administered by the American Musicological Society and is published by A-R Editions.

NEH also has a long history of supporting translations into English of significant literary and historical works from a wide variety of languages. A recent grant to Professor Amber Brian of the University of Iowa, for example, supports the translation and editing of Don Fernando de Alva Ixtilxochitl's *History of Ancient Mexico*, a 150-page account of pre-Columbian and conquest-era Mexico written in the early 17th century. Ixtilxochitl descended from Aztec and Spanish parents and rose to a high position within the colonial government. Because of his Aztec background, he had unique access to historical accounts and lore covering periods before Europeans first came to the New World. Professor Brian's work will be the first to bring this newly-discovered manuscript to scholars and students with annotations and explanatory essays. Also receiving funds to conduct translation work is Beth Mortensen of Lander, Wyoming, who is translating Thomas Aquinas's *Commentary on the Sentences of Peter Lombard* as part of an international collaboration to make available in open access formats Aquinas's Latin text and its modern English translations. Although the *Commentary* was a standard Latin text used to teach university students for over three centuries, it has never been fully translated into English.

Collaborative Research

Collaborative Research grants support teams of researchers involved in a variety of large-scale domestic and international projects, including archaeological excavation and interpretation, scholarly conferences, and wide-ranging original research that significantly adds to our understanding of historical issues and cultures worldwide. For example, Timothy Pauketat, professor of archaeology at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, received funding to lead a team of researchers to complete the analysis of, and enhance public and scholarly access to the artifacts from Cahokia in Illinois, the oldest urban settlement north of the pre-Columbian cities of Mexico. Pauketat and his team will produce the first synthetic history based on several excavation sites, paying special attention to how Cahokia's infrastructure sustained the city over hundreds of years. In addition to scholarly articles and a published volume, the project will make freely available the extensive data from the sites for use by scholars and interested members of the public. Robert Edelman, professor of history at the University of California, San Diego, received support to convene three international conferences in the U.S., England, and Russia on the topic of the role of sports during the Cold War. Edelman and his collaborators will post documents, interviews, and timelines for open access use as well as stream parts of the conference. And, with NEH support, Amy Fairchild, a historian of public health at Columbia University, directs a team of scholars analyzing the history of American responses to perceived panics and crises related to the spread of disease. The project will examine responses to outbreaks of infectious diseases, including cholera, yellow fever, influenza, and AIDS in order to better understand the historical circumstances that determined how and why people reacted to real or perceived crises.

Fellowship Programs at Independent Research Institutions

Grants through the NEH Fellowship Programs at Independent Research Institutions program support residential fellowships at major U.S. research centers located at home and abroad, as well as fellowships awarded under the auspices of U.S. organizations that facilitate international research. The program recognizes that intellectual exchange and collaboration are vital to the scholarly enterprise and to advanced research in the humanities. NEH funding provides American scholars with opportunities to conduct research in U.S. research centers and in China, India, Turkey, Greece, and other parts of the world where support and access might otherwise be difficult or impossible. NEH supports institutions as varied as the Huntington Library in Pasadena, California; the American Center of Oriental Research in Amman, Jordan; and the American Antiquarian Society in Wooster, Massachusetts. Grant funds partially support the cost of fellowship stipends, while the partner institution covers such resources as meals, lodging, copying and library services, computer access, and, in the case of organizations supporting international research, assistance in securing the necessary visas and research permits. These partnerships expand the access of American scholars to important research collections and scholarly communities, including many with extremely rare and specialized expertise. NEH grants to the institutions support 75-80 individual fellows annually.

Awards made through this program yield a wide range of published scholarship. For example, John Kasson, professor of history at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, held a NEH-supported fellowship through the National Humanities Center. With his award, Kasson

wrote *The Little Girl Who Fought the Great Depression: Shirley Temple and 1930s America* (W. W. Norton, 2014), a historical consideration of how the most famous, adored, imitated, and commodified child in the world astonished moviegoers, created a new international culture of celebrity, and revolutionized the role of children as consumers. Kasson uses the iconic Temple to better understand the relationship between Hollywood and those living through the Depression. Marcus Dressler, an American citizen teaching religious studies at Bayreuth University in Germany, held a NEH-supported fellowship through the American Research Institute in Turkey to conduct research leading to the publication of *Writing Religion: The Making of Turkish Alevi Islam* (Oxford University Press, 2013). Dressler uncovers the previously hidden genealogy of the Alevi, a uniquely Turkish sect of Islam, which has risen to prominence in Turkish society since the late 1980s. Given its sudden popularity and its strong ties to Turkish nationalism, Dressler argues, the Alevi are re-shaping Turkey's posture toward the U.S., Europe, and the Muslim world. Ying Zhu, professor of media at the City University of New York, Stanton Island, held a NEH-supported fellowship through the American Council of Learned Societies' China Program. With her award, Zhu conducted research and interviews to write *Two Billion Eyes: The Story of China Central Television* (New Press, 2012), the first history of China's most dynamic, influential, and wide-reaching television network.

OFFICE OF DIGITAL HUMANITIES

FY 2016 Request: \$4,480,000

Programs/Grant Categories:

- Digging into Data Challenge
- Digital Humanities Start-Up Grants
- Digital Humanities Implementation Grants
- Institutes for Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities
- NEH/German Research Foundation Bilateral Digital Humanities Program
- Humanities Open Book Program (new program)

In 2006, the National Endowment for the Humanities established an Office of Digital Humanities to foster the development of world-class, leading-edge research and education in the emerging field of digital humanities. As our world becomes increasingly digital, computationally intensive research methods become critically important to the humanities, as well as to many other disciplines. Since the advent of the Internet, we have seen the creation of vast databases of digital books, newspapers, photographs, music, and other materials. These and other research resources are the traditional materials studied by humanities scholars. But now that we have access to literally millions of pages of materials in digital form, how does this change the very nature of humanities research? How does the large scale—and the availability of large-scale computing—change the research paradigm? These are among the important and fundamental questions being addressed by the Endowment and by NEH-supported researchers.

Since NEH created the Office Digital Humanities, the field has grown enormously, with many universities creating new jobs and hiring new faculty, librarians, and technologists to work on digital humanities projects. In 2013, for example, Arizona State University launched their new Institute of Humanities Research Nexus Laboratory for Digital Humanities and Transdisciplinary Informatics and Northeastern University in Massachusetts launched the NULab, the center for Digital Humanities and Computational Social Science. Both of these new laboratories specialize in digital humanities research and employ staffs from both the humanities and computing fields.

Digital humanities is also of interest to the private sector. For example, Microsoft worked with NEH to co-fund a major project related to the AIDS Memorial Quilt. In July 2012, the quilt was exhibited on the National Mall in Washington, as part of the Smithsonian Institution's annual Folklife Festival. For the first time, the quilt—so large it can rarely be displayed in public—was accompanied by a digital exhibition that allowed members of the public to search and view it online. The digital exhibition was created by the University of Southern California (USC) in collaboration with the University of Iowa and funded via a unique partnership between NEH and Microsoft Research. After making the original grant to USC, NEH staff contacted Microsoft to inquire if they would be willing to provide assistance. Seeing the importance of this project to a wide audience, as well as the interesting technology problems being tackled, Microsoft responded positively and provided critical hardware, software, and support for the effort. The project was a success and received extensive press coverage.

NEH's leadership role in the field of the digital humanities has been widely acknowledged in the humanities community, helping to set the pace for research funders around the world. In the recent book, *Debates in the Digital Humanities*, which describes the rapid growth of digital humanities research, University of Maryland Professor Matthew Kirschenbaum acknowledges the leadership role taken by the NEH in building the field, saying "That the major federal granting agency for scholarship in the humanities, taking its cues directly from a small but active and influential group of scholars, had devoted scarce resources to launching a number of new grant opportunities, many of them programmatically innovative in and of themselves, around an endeavor termed 'digital humanities' was doubtless the tipping point for the branding of DH, at least in the United States." NEH is also the leader of the largest international digital humanities grant programs in the world, the Digging into Data Challenge, which brings together American researchers with their colleagues in the UK, Canada, and the Netherlands.

In July 2012, NEH made a major award to support the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA), an ambitious endeavor bringing together universities, libraries, museums, and government agencies to develop a unified gateway into the vast digital cultural heritage collections dispersed across the nation. The DPLA website launched in April 2013 and now provides free, online public access to nearly 8.5 million digital books, photographs, maps, and other materials from over 1,300 institutions. Students, teachers, and scholars can use innovative search tools to navigate the collections, or they can explore a series of specially curated exhibits on topics such as the New Deal and Native American history. Through a network of state and regional partners in Minnesota, Texas, Utah, and other areas, DPLA also provides technical services to leverage the limited resources of the countless institutions hoping to digitize and share their own collections. In 2013, DPLA was named one of the American Association of School Librarians' Best Websites for Teaching and Learning and one of *Time* magazine's 50 Best Websites of the year. In the coming year, NEH staff will work with the DPLA to help ensure more extensive geographic coverage and to plan for sustainability of this valuable resource.

The Endowment's Office of Digital Humanities administers a number of innovative grant programs aimed at moving the field forward rapidly:

Digging into Data Challenge

The Digging into Data Challenge funds cutting-edge collaborative research from top U.S. scholars and scientists working with colleagues in Canada, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands. The program seeks to spark new research methods that use advanced computing to query massive digital datasets of books, newspapers, music, economic data, survey data, or other materials typically studied in the humanities and social sciences. The program uses the "challenge" format to create interest in the field and encourage innovative research. The Endowment recognized that with the explosion of Internet-based digital materials, this grant opportunity would be of interest to a wide variety of scholars and funders of advanced research in the U.S. and internationally.

The program, which NEH coordinates and manages, is co-sponsored by nine other national and international research funders: the Arts & Humanities Research Council (United

Kingdom), the Economic & Social Research Council (United Kingdom), the Canada Fund for Innovation (Canada), the Institute of Museum and Library Services (United States), the Joint Information Systems Committee (United Kingdom), the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (Canada), the National Science Foundation (United States), the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research in collaboration with The Netherlands eScience Center (Netherlands), and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (Canada). NEH's current \$550,000 investment in the program is helping to leverage a total of approximately \$5.1 million from colleague agencies around the world.

This is an area of great interest to the field. There was an enthusiastic response to the program's initial grant competition, with 69 international teams submitting applications. Some notable projects receiving awards include:

- One project is trying to tackle the question of how migration influences language. This big data project—"Trees and Tweets: Mining Billions to Understand Human Migration and Regional Linguistic Variation"—is using one of the largest language corpuses ever assembled: Twitter. The team is studying both U.S. and U.K. Twitter users to find regional linguistic variations and to see how it is influenced by migration. As part of this study, they are also exploring how new words—like "selfie"—become popular and spread into the daily use of people in both countries. The team involves researchers from the University of South Carolina and Aston University in the U.K.
- The "Trading Consequences" project is using large-scale data mining techniques to study the economic and environmental consequences of commodity trading during the nineteenth century. This multi-disciplinary project brings together historians and text mining and information visualization researchers who are looking at over 200,000 historic documents that contain records of trades. The team has already gained new insights, particularly into how the importation of fats (for example, palm oil, cottonseed oil, whale blubber) in Great Britain from all around the world spurred new industries such as candles, soaps, and explosives. At the same time, the need for fats had extensive environmental impacts, as it led to deforestation and over-harvesting of whales. The team involves researchers from the University of Edinburgh, York University, and the University of St. Andrews in Scotland.

In 2012, the Council on Library and Information Resources released an NEH-funded report titled *One Culture: Computationally Intensive Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences*. This report comes on the heels of an exhaustive two-year evaluation conducted by CLIR staff that analyzed the research outputs of NEH's international grant competition. The study highlighted the importance of the program, noting that "The implications of these projects and their digital milieu for the economics and management of higher education, as well as for the practices of research, teaching, and learning, are profound, not only for researchers engaged in computationally intensive work but also for college and university administrations, scholarly societies, funding agencies, research libraries, academic publishers, and students." The study's recommendations were very helpful to the Endowment, leading to many improvements to our grant processes, as well as giving us a roadmap for future research.

This evaluation focused on the first round of funded research. In order to help ensure the program continues to meet the needs of the field, we are embarking on another evaluative study, this one to be funded by our U.K. counterparts. The new survey, performed in the fall of 2014, focuses on measuring the impact of the projects funded during the second round of the program. We will use the outputs and outcomes of this study to guide our investment for the next round of grants.

Digital Humanities Start-Up Grants

Digital Start-Up Grants is a “seed grant” program that is designed to spur innovative research and education projects in the digital humanities. The program takes a “high risk/high reward” approach, trying to identify exciting new research by American scholars, universities, libraries, archives, or non-profits that use technology in an innovative way. These small grants (ranging from \$30,000 to a maximum of \$60,000) result in plans, prototypes, or demonstration models for long-term digital humanities projects. Successful Start-Up grants that have demonstrated their impact on the field are encouraged to pursue larger implementation funding at a later stage. This program quickly became one of the highest application volume grant opportunities at NEH. The large number of applications and the high quality of awards suggest that the Endowment has tapped an important unmet need in the humanities. Some notable recent grants include:

- Between 1935 and 1945, in a project sponsored by the United States Farm Security Administration and the Office of War Information, over 170,000 photos were taken documenting life across the United States. This incredible collection is currently housed at the Library of Congress. With funding from NEH, scholars at Yale University have created Photogrammar, a website that allows the public to view this entire collection using maps to geolocate the photos to the towns where they were taken. Teachers and the public have embraced the site, using it to learn about the history of their home towns. The project has received wide media coverage, including a piece on National Public Radio’s “Morning Edition” program and articles in the *School Library Journal*, *MetaFilter*, *PetaPixel*, and *Library Journal*.
- One of the goals of the Office of Digital Humanities is to help ensure that American teachers and students have access to digital tools and technologies for scholarship. One key group that to date has not played a major role in the digital humanities is community colleges. With funding from NEH, Lane Community College in Eugene, Oregon, launched a project called “Bringing Digital Humanities to the Community College and Vice Versa.” The project directors conducted extensive surveys of the community college community and then hosted a day-long discussion at the Community College Humanities Association conference to develop a strategy for digital humanities support at the community college level.

Digital Humanities Implementation Grants

In response to many requests from the field, the Endowment created the Implementation Grants program in FY 2012. The program targets projects that have already demonstrated a

successful beginning phase and that have a clear plan for moving towards full implementation. The program offers larger grants than the Start-Up Grants program to enable projects to develop fully and have maximum impact on the field. While many of the applicants are former Start-Up grantees, the program is also open to other researchers who have successfully completed initial planning phases of their project. Some notable grants of the funding category include:

- In a digital age, audio files present a remarkable preservation challenge. Journalists, historians, librarians, and others have massive collections of important audio interviews with politicians, scientists, musicians, or ordinary Americans. This audio might be in an obsolete format and poorly organized. Or even if digital, it may be difficult to search or to use in a productive way. With NEH funding, the Pop-Up Archive project, led by the non-profit PRX, is creating an easy-to-use system for archiving, labeling, organizing, preserving, and even transcribing the words found in an audio file. Pop-Up Archive is of great use to a wide variety of people and organizations who have any sort of audio collection.
- The HathiTrust digital library is a partnership of over 60 research libraries that currently has over 10 million volumes in its collection, making it one of the largest digital libraries in the world. With NEH funding, scholars from the University of Illinois, Northeastern University, and Rice University are developing the HathiTrust + Bookworm project. Bookworm is a new interface into HathiTrust that will allow big data-style research into this massive collection. For example, searching for words or themes across millions of books over the course of hundreds of years. It will allow students, teachers, scholars, and the private sector to do unprecedented research using this collection.

Institutes for Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities

This grant category encourages the sharing of best technology practices among humanities scholars. As reflected by the research grants made in the Digging into Data Challenge and Start-Up Grants categories, more and more humanities scholars are using sophisticated technology tools and techniques. The Institutes program sponsors training workshops that allow scholars to learn about these new, advanced technologies, tools, and techniques. This funding opportunity meets a clear need in the humanities: Two recent training institutes, for example, reported that over 100 people applied for the 30 seats available. The program also ensures that scholars from universities both large and small have opportunities to learn about the latest research and education techniques in the digital humanities. Institutes are making important contributions to the field. A recent article in *The New York Times*, for example, described the new “spatial humanities” research, citing the work of the NEH-funded “GeoSpatial Institute” held at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville.

Recently, a scholar who attended one of these institutes wrote a letter to the project director, saying “I have to say that what I learned at the NEH mini-seminar absolutely surpassed anything that I could have imagined for the utility of these new methods and technologies. I . . . left completely rethinking my own research.” Another scholar wrote to say that the “institute was an amazing experience—one of the best intellectual learning situations in my whole life.”

In the fall of 2014, the NEH began an evaluation of the impact of this grant program. We are conducting extensive interviews with attendees of these institutes to see how the training impacted their research and their careers. This evaluation will help to identify strengths and weaknesses of the program and illuminate gap areas that need more funding in future rounds of the program.

Examples of recent awards in the Institutes for Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities program include:

- Today, more and more cutting-edge archaeology involves digital methods not only for selecting dig sites, but for collecting, sharing, and preserving dig data. In 2015, a team led by Michigan State University will host the twelve-day Institute on Digital Archaeology Method & Practice. The institute will provide in-depth training to 20 archaeologists on the latest digital methods and best practices in the field. Attendees will include archeologists from the academic, public, and private sectors and the hands-on training will be done by a group of internationally recognized experts.
- In 2015, the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, DC, will lead a 13-day institute called “Early Modern Agendas: Advanced Topics.” This event will be open to advanced scholars and librarians who study early modern Europe. The goal of the workshop is to train the attendees on the latest digital research techniques being used at the Folger and other leading institutions for early modern European studies.

NEH/German Research Foundation Bilateral Digital Humanities Program

As noted previously, the Endowment has forged creative partnerships with organizations in the United States and in other nations in support of the digital humanities. Another example of international partnership is the NEH/German Research Foundation Bilateral Digital Humanities Program. Under this grant category, the Endowment and the German Research Foundation split costs equally to fund research partnerships between American and German universities and other research institutions. The program has spurred the development of high-caliber digital humanities proposals and has helped to build capacity and research collaborations among American and German humanities scholars, librarians, and scientists. Examples of recent awards include:

- Columbia University is working with Heidelberg University on a project to create one of the largest collections of Sanskrit texts in the world. The SARIT project will be a structured corpus of Sanskrit texts, including 10,000 pages of newly digitized materials. The team will also link the corpus to two existing bibliographical database, creating a broadly useable digital workspace for Indological researchers.
- Much of what we know about life in the ancient world comes from studying writing on papyrus—an early form of paper made from the pith of the papyrus plant. A team of papyrological experts from New York University and Heidelberg University are creating the Digital Corpus of Literary Papyri. The team will start with digital versions of Greek and Latin literary texts but later move on to other ancient languages. One key part of this

project is they will be leveraging technologies already developed by the team for documentary papyri (papyri whose writing focuses on day to day life rather than literature).

Humanities Open Book Program (New Program)

This grant category is new for FY 2015. Humanities Open Book is a grant program designed to make outstanding, out-of-print humanities books available to a wide audience. By taking advantage of low-cost “e-book” technology, this program will allow teachers, students, scholars, and the public to read thousands of humanities books that have been long out of reach. The program is a public-private partnership conducted in concert with the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the largest private humanities funder in the United States.

Books are widely considered the most important academic “product” in the humanities. Traditionally, books have been the primary medium for expressing, communicating, and debating humanistic ideas. To that end, since its founding in 1965, one of the NEH’s primary missions has been to fund research toward the publication of a book. According to a recent study conducted by the agency, the NEH Fellowships program alone has led to the publication of nearly than 8,400 books.

However, there is a flaw in this system: Namely, most humanities books sell only a small number of copies, primarily to academic libraries, and then quickly go out of print. Thus, the vast majority of humanities scholarship funded by NEH or other sources is found in books that are now out of print and largely out of reach to scholars and general readers.

With this new grant program, NEH, along with our partners at the Mellon Foundation, will award grants to publishers to turn thousands of high-quality, peer reviewed humanities books into free-to-download e-books that can be read on any computer, e-reader, or smartphone. These books will be a rich resource for teachers, students, academics, scientists, and general readers and will cover a vast range of topics, from American and world history to literature, philosophy, archeology, the history of science, and many others.

OFFICE OF CHALLENGE GRANTS

FY 2016 Request: \$8,500,000

- Strengthening humanities education
- Facilitating humanities research and scholarship
- Preserving and increasing access to collections
- Providing opportunities for lifelong learning in the humanities
- Enhancing infrastructure for digital humanities
- Encouraging financial planning and broadening the base of financial support

The National Endowment for the Humanities is an important source of assistance for strengthening the capacity of organizations to undertake and sustain significant humanities activities. No other type of grant, whether from the NEH itself or from a major foundation, leverages as much in private, nonfederal donations to the humanities as does the NEH Challenge Grants program. Since its inception in 1977, Challenge Grants from NEH have generated more than \$2 billion in nonfederal funds for the humanities. (Adjusted for inflation, the amount generated equals more than \$4 billion.) Crucial to achieving the program's goals is the “multiplier effect.” Recipients of a challenge grant must match every federal dollar with three nonfederal dollars in gifts to the grantee. (Different matching ratios may be obtained in special circumstances.) Challenge grants appeal to donors who want evidence that their gifts make a difference in furthering the goals of the institutions they support because donations to an NEH Challenge Grant are worth more than the dollar amount of the gift. Many challenge applicants solicit matching gifts even before applying to NEH: the mere anticipation of a possible challenge grant stimulates donations. Even if the application is unsuccessful in the highly competitive NEH review process, most donors allow the organization to retain gifts they gave in anticipation of a grant.

NEH Challenge Grants are best understood as a partnership between NEH and independent humanities institutions, including museums, tribal centers, public libraries, colleges, universities, scholarly research organizations, state humanities councils, historical societies, and historic houses and sites. Such nonprofit organizations as these partner with the Endowment by raising funds in support of educational programs, scholarly research, public programming, cultural preservation, and other humanities activities.

A sampling of recent challenge grants illustrates how this multi-faceted NEH program reverberates across all humanities disciplines and, in imaginatively varied ways, enhances the ability of institutions large and small to fulfill their long-term goals in the humanities.

- A small public library in Kansas endows a speaker’s series, community reading programs, and future technology purchases.
- A state university in Arkansas restores historic buildings in the Dyess Colony, a New Deal era agricultural resettlement community that will serve as an educational complex for humanities programming.

- A major university in Indiana conducts research and public outreach on the place of religion in American civic life.
- A state humanities council endows a Fund for New Communities to expand the Clemente Course in the Humanities for low-income adults. Founded in 1995, the Clemente program teaches the humanities at the college level to people living in economic distress.
- A small two-year college in Nevada, which serves six largely rural counties across an extraordinary 63,000 square miles, is able to provide crucial humanities programs to people in its service area through a virtual humanities center and lecture capture software. Lecture capture technology allows instructors to record what happens in their classrooms and make it available digitally.
- A museum designed to tell the story of a historic warship leverages support for the work of two key staff members—a research historian and a manager of academic and family programs—who discover the stories of the ship’s crew and make the accounts available, in a historically accurate way, to the thousands of people each year who visit the ship.
- A consortium of research libraries joins together to support scholarly and public understanding of the history of science, technology, and medicine through a series of research fellowships.

As the cited examples demonstrate, grantees use both the NEH challenge funds and the matched nonfederal funds for a wide variety of long-term institutional purposes. They may use the money to purchase capital equipment and upgrade technology, renovate or construct facilities, and add to library holdings or museum collections. Challenge grants can also establish or augment endowments that support basic, long-term needs such as staff, maintenance, and programming. Since 1977 the Challenge Grants program has strengthened the capacity of more than 1,500 humanities institutions of all types, in every state of the Union, for all imaginable kinds of humanities activities. Our nation is the stronger for it.

In FY 2014, the NEH Office of Challenge Grants received 80 applications and made sixteen awards. The program anticipates receiving approximately 85 applications in FY 2015 and making fifteen to seventeen awards. At the requested funding level in FY 2016, the program anticipates receiving 90 applications and making up to eighteen awards.

Strengthening Humanities Education

In accord with a key element of the Endowment's strategic plan, the NEH Challenge Grants program helps strengthen humanities teaching and learning throughout the nation. For example, Swarthmore College received a \$600,000 challenge grant (to match \$2,400,000 in nonfederal funds) for teaching positions in Modern Standard Arabic. The college currently has substantial enrollments in Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies, and it seeks to address a national need by offering instruction in first- and second-year Arabic in a tri-college consortium with Haverford College and Bryn Mawr College. The consortium integrates language and cultural study and encourages participation by its students in overseas residential programs. The grant

will support Arabic language drill instructors and a full-time faculty position at Swarthmore as well as a part-time faculty position shared with Haverford and Bryn Mawr.

Similarly, on the other side of the country, the College of Idaho received an NEH offer of \$500,000 (to match \$1.5 million) to create an Endowed Chair in Judaic Studies and a public programming lecture series. The Chair has been filled by a distinguished scholar of Jewish history and Judaism who is guiding curricular development in Judaic Studies at the college. The Chair also serves as a program coordinator and resource for the greater community and has been designing a program promoting greater understanding of Jewish traditions, culture and philosophy. This Endowed Chair is the first of its kind in the state of Idaho, and is the only such chair in the Intermountain Region of the United States.

Facilitating Humanities Research and Scholarship

NEH Challenge Grants support scholarly research in the humanities at a variety of institutions, from large universities to small colleges, from major history museums to historic sites. Although NEH supports research in the humanities in all its forms—through individual fellowships, independent residential fellowships, summer stipends and seminars, collaborative research efforts, and access to collections—an increasingly significant mode of supporting research in the humanities is through humanities centers at universities, research libraries, museums, and historical societies. The Endowment has helped establish and strengthen humanities centers at such different institutions as Stanford University in California and Messiah College in Pennsylvania, at the Dubuque County Historical Society in Iowa and the American Antiquarian Society in Massachusetts, and at Wake Forest University in North Carolina and Hood College in Maryland.

An excellent example of a center supported by a recently completed challenge grant is the Bill and Carol Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry (FCHI) at Emory University in Atlanta. The Endowment offered Emory a challenge grant of \$500,000 in federal funds (to match \$2,000,000 in nonfederal gifts) to endow the center. In addition to supporting key postdoctoral fellowships in poetics, faculty research, and a variety of other programs, including a Great Works seminar open to the public, the challenge grant has enhanced Emory's status as an emerging international center for the study of poetry. The grant timetable created a sense of urgency for completing the required match and helped the university raise more than the amount needed. Grant administrators at Emory wrote that "without the FCHI's support from the NEH Challenge Grant, the Center itself might no longer exist."

Through its Challenge Grants program NEH has long supported regional, state, and local history organizations. The common saying that "all politics are local" can apply as well to history—"all history is local"—for it is the stories of where we live and work that affect us most directly and most deeply. A wide array of history museums, historical societies, and historic sites, all of which preserve, interpret, and disseminate to the public information about our shared past, have received long-term support from NEH. For example, the Maine Historical Society undertook a major renovation and expansion of its research library and archives with the aid of a \$500,000 challenge grant (matching \$1.5 million in nonfederal funds) from NEH. Built in 1907 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the library is a comprehensive resource for

the study of Maine, New England, and early American history. It houses collections of archival manuscript holdings from the fifteenth to the twenty-first centuries, including such rarities as the Dunlap Broadside of the Declaration of Independence, printed on July 4, 1776. Another example is the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. After a major flood in 2008 that required the museum to close temporarily for repairs, the museum staff took the opportunity to address, in their strategic planning, core questions of significance and relevance not only of the Czech/Slovak experience but also of the broader issues of immigration and changing relationships between cultural groups in the region and nationwide. The museum is using an NEH Challenge Grant to create an endowment that will support an educator position, lecture series, research fellowships, conferences, internships, and web-based humanities curricula. These educational offerings made possible by the challenge grant will resonate nationally, regionally, and locally.

NEH also supports overseas research centers that assist American scholars who are advancing our knowledge of the world beyond our shores. Scholars studying a diverse group of cultures and peoples from ancient to modern times rely on overseas research centers for access to important collections, for introductions to scholars in other nations, for access to national libraries, and for important logistical assistance with everything from where to eat and sleep to finding necessary transportation to significant sites. Overseas scholarship is essential for understanding the increasingly complex world we live in, and has the potential to enhance national security by providing knowledge and understanding of diverse cultures and ideologies. Over the years, challenge grants have supported nearly half of the overseas centers that constitute the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC), as well as CAORC itself. The list of challenge grant-funded overseas research centers includes the American Academy in Rome, the American Center of Oriental Research, the W. F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research, the Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute, the American Institute of Indian Studies, the American Research Center in Egypt, the American Research Center in Sofia, the American Research Institute in Turkey, and the American School of Classical Studies at Athens,

Preserving and Increasing Access to Cultural Resources

The Challenge Grants program supports long-term institutional capacity to preserve manuscripts, art works, artifacts, documents, and other collections important to our cultural heritage. The North Haven Historical Society, which serves the community on a small island off the coast of Maine, used a \$60,000 challenge grant (matched by \$180,000 in nonfederal gifts) to construct an archives building that now houses important documents and materials from the region's past. According to the project director, the challenge offer "was just the incentive the Society needed and a clear indication to our potential donors that we . . . meant to provide an archival safe haven for all that we had been given, for future acquisitions, and an enticement for community members (especially students) to explore their heritage." Protection of another region's history is the purpose of a 2009 challenge grant offered to Cape Cod Community College in Massachusetts. The college houses the W.B. Nickerson Cape Cod History Archives, the only archival resource dedicated to preserving the rich historical and cultural heritage of Cape Cod. The collection of over 10,000 items including town records, personal papers, deeds, genealogical records, plus over 5,000 books, has outgrown the capacity of the college's library to

house and protect this historical treasure. With an NEH challenge grant of \$170,000 (matching \$340,000 in nonfederal donations), the college has renovated the archival space in accord with best conservation practices and has established a small endowment to fund educational outreach, archival supplies, and new acquisitions to the collection.

Conservation facilities, programs, and staff play an increasingly important role in many challenge grants. The Endowment has long supported conservation education and training. The agency has helped museums establish conservation departments, and in so doing has strengthened conservation across the nation—including the establishment of conservation centers and endowment for conservator positions at the Toledo Museum in Ohio, the Baltimore Museum of Art in Maryland, the Chrysler Museum in Virginia, the Anchorage Museum in Alaska, the Winterthur Museum in Delaware, and the Asian Art Museum in California. For example, NEH recently offered a Challenge Grant of \$400,000 to the Gilcrease Museum Management Trust in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The museum houses the world's largest and most comprehensive collection of art and artifacts of the American West. The museum also holds an unparalleled collection of Native American art and artifacts, as well as historical manuscripts, documents, and maps. The annual interest on the \$1,600,000 endowment created with the grant will produce funds to endow the position of Chief Conservator who will play a pivotal role in interpreting this extraordinary collection for the public as well as for scholars and students.

Providing Opportunities for Lifelong Learning in the Humanities

An excellent example of the important role local historical institutions play in providing opportunities for lifelong learning in the humanities can be seen in the challenge grant of \$425,000 awarded to the Maymont Foundation (to match \$1.275 million in nonfederal funds), located in Richmond, Virginia. Maymont is a 100-acre country estate developed between 1886 and 1925 by railroad magnate and prominent Richmond business/civic leader Major James H. Dooley and his wife Sallie May. NEH's grant provides funding for outdoor signage as well as endowment for staff salaries, scholar-in-residence stipends, and advisory panel costs. Participants in the museum's humanities activities gain an understanding of Maymont's richly layered story, the many facets of the estate, its authentically restored interiors, the people who knew it as a home, and the people who knew it as workplace—all presented in the larger context of the forces of the times. One of the most significant stories visitors encounter at Maymont is that of the estate's African American household workers, laid out in the exhibit *In Service & Beyond: Domestic Work and Life in a Gilded Age Mansion*. According to a well-known scholar of the African American experience, this exhibit has raised Maymont "to a well-deserved position as a model site for domestic service interpretation."

Enhancing Institutional Infrastructures for Digital Humanities

The Office of Challenge Grants will continue its long-standing support for enhancing the institutional capacity that makes sustained use of advanced technology possible. NEH awarded the University of Nebraska \$500,000 (to match \$1.5 million in nonfederal funds) for the Center for Digital Research in the Humanities (CDRH). CDRH hosts digital research projects, creates archives and digital databases, and provides venues for training and experimentation in digital humanities. The challenge grant provides endowment support for CDRH's mentoring and

training programs, which include graduate student research assistantships, summer internships for students from outside the University of Nebraska, post-doctoral fellowships for research at the center, and expanded versions of the well-regarded Nebraska Digital Workshops. CDRH has sponsored a variety of major digital projects and archives, including The Walt Whitman Archive (supported by an endowment created through a 2005 NEH Challenge Grant), the Willa Cather Archive, the Omaha Indian Heritage site, Railroads and the Making of Modern America, and the Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition Online, among others.

Encouraging financial planning and broadening financial support

Successful challenge grants reflect careful institutional strategic planning for the long-term strength of the humanities, including taking advantage of the leveraging power of NEH awards.

Lewis and Clark Community College in Illinois received \$250,000 in challenge grant funds (to match \$500,000 in nonfederal funds) to endow activities in a new Institute for the Humanities in Culture. A year after receiving the grant offer, the college reported that a well-known native of downstate Illinois, who had never before donated to the college, made a gift of \$500,000 to match 2-to-1 NEH's portion of the challenge grant. But the donor did not stop there; he went on to purchase the abandoned Lincoln School in Edwardsville, Illinois—which he attended as a child—to donate to the college as the physical home for a Center for the Humanities. According to Jill Lane, Lewis and Clark's Dean of Liberal Arts and Business, "the most unexpected impact for [the college] resulting from the NEH Challenge Grant is the connection that has been made with [the new donor] and the acquisition of the historic Lincoln School." The donor continues to aid the college in raising additional funds for the humanities at the college.

An \$800,000 challenge grant (to match \$3.2 million in nonfederal funds) to the University of Notre Dame has had a similar effect. In addition to helping secure a sizable first-time gift of \$800,000 for the university's Byzantine Studies program from a private international philanthropic organization, the challenge grant served to broaden Notre Dame's donor base, especially with extending it to the Greek-American community in particular. Members of the university's development staff and faculty have built relationships with the Chicago Greek community to create awareness of Byzantine scholarship and to cultivate future support. A public lecture celebrating Norte Dame's program in Byzantine Studies, delivered by a professor of liturgy from the Ecclesiastical Academy of Athens, attracted prominent members of Chicago's Greek community, including the bishop of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago and Greece's consul general to the city.

TREASURY FUNDS

FY 2016 Request: \$2,400,000

NEH uses Treasury funds to match nonfederal contributions in support of humanities projects. Encouraging private-sector support for cultural activities is an important goal of the Administration and of Congress, and NEH Treasury funds and Challenge Grants have proven to be an effective means of leveraging the contributions of the nation's businesses, foundations, and individuals on behalf of the humanities. From the establishment of the agency in 1965 through fiscal year 2014, Endowment matching grants for humanities projects have stimulated approximately \$434 million in third-party donations. (In addition, NEH Challenge Grants have leveraged more than \$2 billion in institutional support, or \$4 billion in current, inflation-adjusted dollars.) In order to build on that record of success, NEH is requesting \$2.400 million for the Endowment's Treasury funds program in FY 2016.

Matching grants are awarded in most programs of the Endowment. A matching award entails an offer of NEH funding that is conditioned on an equivalent amount of fund-raising by the recipient. A matching offer may comprise the entire amount of the Endowment's support. More often, however, it is combined with an outright grant that permits the project activity to begin while a fund-raising effort is being organized.

Although Treasury matching funds support discrete projects rather than basic institutional needs, matching grants awarded with Treasury funds generally have the effect of improving the financial stability of humanities institutions. By providing incentives for fund-raising, Treasury funds help humanities institutions establish long-term relationships with potential donors.

In FY 2014, NEH matching grants, leveraging an equivalent amount in nonfederal giving, supported humanities activities of every kind. Awards of Treasury matching funds included the following:

- \$448,500 that enabled the state and territorial humanities councils to provide federal matching support for projects conducted by local organizations and groups throughout the country.
- \$100,000 that will enable the Silk Road Project, Inc., of Boston to produce a television documentary about the Silk Road Ensemble, a collective of virtuoso musicians from more than 20 countries in Asia, Europe, and the Americas.
- \$37,574 that will enable the Arhoolie Foundation of El Cerrito, California, to digitize the Strachwitz Frontera Collection of Mexican and Mexican American Recordings. Partnering with the Digital Library at the University of California, Los Angeles, the recordings will be mounted on a searchable, bilingual website.
- \$100,000 to the University of Wisconsin to support continued development of the multi-volume reference work, *The History of Cartography*, with particular attention

to Volume Four on the "European Enlightenment, 1650-1800," Volume Five on "The Nineteenth Century," and Volume Six on the "Twentieth Century."

- \$150,000 to the Massachusetts Historical Society to support preparation for publication of volumes 18 and 19 of the *Papers of John Adams*, and volumes 12 and 13 of the *Adams Family Correspondence*.
- \$50,000 to *The Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution and the Adoption of the Bill*, a long-term editing project that will prepare for publication three volumes of documents concerning the ratification of the United States Constitution in Maryland, South Carolina, and New Hampshire.
- \$75,000 to the University of Virginia to support publication of four volumes of the *The Papers of James Madison*.



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities

MISSION STATEMENT

The National Endowment for the Humanities serves and strengthens our nation by supporting high quality projects and programs in the humanities and by making the humanities available to all Americans.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

FY 2016 PERFORMANCE PLAN

I. INTRODUCTION

The National Endowment for the Humanities is pleased to present the agency's FY 2016 Performance Plan. This document provides a measure of the Endowment's progress toward attaining the goals and objectives of the NEH multi-year strategic plan. The annual performance goals and indicators below are integrally connected to the long-range goals, objectives, and strategies detailed in the Endowment's strategic plan. (FY 2016 and FY 2015 goals and indicators relate to FY 2013-2017 strategic plan; FY 2014 data align with the previous plan.) FY 2016 performance data are consistent with the program activities currently planned at levels of the Endowment's FY 2016 Congressional request. FY 2015 performance data are consistent with the program activities currently planned at levels of the Endowment's FY 2015 appropriation. Also shown are performance results that relate to activities undertaken at the levels of the Endowment's FY 2014 appropriation.

NEH recently launched a new feature of our online eGMS database, the ability to collect information about products, prizes, and media coverage that result from NEH-funded projects. Current and past grantees can now input data about such project outcomes as books, journal articles, websites, documentary films, museum exhibitions, conferences, workshops, computer software, new buildings or equipment, and academic prizes, or about media coverage, such as a book review, newspaper article, or radio interview. This new database will better enable the NEH to demonstrate the impact of our grants to the public, and will be of great utility to scholars and students, who will be able to come to the NEH website and see not only the title and description of the grant, but also find links to the books, articles, films, or other products of the project. In tandem with this effort, we are currently digitizing paper grant records that document all humanities projects that received NEH funding from the inception of the agency until the Endowment's first computer system went operational in FY 1980. To date, 12,000 of these historical records have been digitized. When this effort is completed, they too will be accessible to the public via the new eGMS database.

We are also planning to adapt elements of the new Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR) format, which was developed by a committee of the National Science and Technology Council, to help us capture performance information from grantees in NEH's grants management system. The Endowment will test this new format in some of its grant programs in FY 2015.

II. PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS

In the tables that follow, the objectives of the Endowment's strategic plan are expressed as goals of the NEH performance plans for FY 2016 and for the two preceding fiscal years. Annual progress toward the attainment of those goals is calibrated with reference to numerical or qualitative indicators. The integration of the Endowment's performance plan and its budget submission is fully evident in these tables. In each, the left-most column explicitly relates

requested (or appropriated) funding for each of the major programmatic areas of the Endowment to a specific performance goal and to anticipated (or actual) performance levels. The nine performance goals below all address the Endowment's primary strategic objective: **To advance knowledge and understanding in the humanities in the United States.** They are:

- Facilitate basic research and original scholarship in the humanities.
- Strengthen teaching and learning in the humanities in elementary and secondary schools and institutions of higher education.
- Preserve and increase access to cultural heritage resources that constitute the cultural and intellectual patrimony of the American people and that are important to research, education, and public understanding of the humanities.
- Provide opportunities for American citizens of all ages and wherever located to engage in lifelong learning in the humanities.
- Maintain and strengthen partnerships with the state humanities councils.
- Provide a focal point for development of the digital humanities.
- Strengthen the institutional base of the humanities through financial incentives provided by matching challenge grants.
- Stimulate third-party support for humanities projects and programs.
- Create program initiatives that advance knowledge and understanding in the humanities in the United States in new ways.

II. Table A	NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES FY 2016 PERFORMANCE PLAN		
PROGRAM DIVISION/ REQUIRED FUNDING	PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS	FY 2016 PLANNED PERFORMANCE LEVELS	
RESEARCH PROGRAMS \$14,536,000	A: Facilitate basic research and original scholarship in the humanities.		
	1) Provide support for fellowships and stipends that enable scholars—both those affiliated with educational institutions and those working independently—to devote a concentrated period of time to research and writing on significant subjects in all fields of the humanities.		Support would be provided for 190 individual scholars to make significant progress on important humanities research projects through fellowships and stipends.
	2) Support collaborative research projects on significant subjects in the humanities.		Support would be provided for 33 important long-term collaborative projects in the humanities such as scholarly editions, translations, archaeological excavations and analyses and other complex, large-scale undertakings. In addition, 24 previously awarded grants would receive ongoing support through NEH matching funds.
	3) Encourage international scholarly collaboration in the humanities.		Awards for 23 humanities fellowship programs at independent research institutions would support the work of 72 humanities scholars who are making significant contributions to scholarship in the humanities.
	4) Encourage the use of digital technologies in scholarly research and the dissemination of research findings.		Applicants would be encouraged to harness the vast potential of advanced digital technology in the conduct and dissemination of their research.
	5) Work in partnership with the National Science Foundation to support projects to record, document, and archive endangered languages worldwide, with a special emphasis on endangered Native American languages.		Ten projects would be supported through the Endowment's multi-year funding partnership with the National Science Foundation to provide awards to scholars engaged in recording and archiving key languages before they become extinct.
	6) Support humanities scholarship and related course development by faculty at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges and Universities.		Eight projects would be supported through the Endowment's multi-year funding partnership with the National Science Foundation to provide awards to scholars engaged in recording and archiving key languages before they become extinct.

PROGRAM DIVISION/ REQUIRED FUNDING	PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS	FY 2016 PLANNED PERFORMANCE LEVELS
<p style="text-align: center;">EDUCATION PROGRAMS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$13,040,000</p>	<p>B: Strengthen teaching and learning in the humanities in elementary and secondary schools and institutions of higher education.</p>	
	<p>1) Strengthen teaching and learning in the humanities in elementary and secondary schools and institutions of higher education.</p>	<p>Support for 50 NEH summer seminars and institutes would enable 535 college teachers and 535 school teachers to revitalize their knowledge and teaching of the humanities. College teachers participating in seminars and institutes during the summer of 2017 would reach approximately 93,625 students annually; school teacher participants would reach approximately 66,875 annually.</p> <p>Support for 20 “Landmarks of American History and Culture” workshops to take place in the summer of 2017 would enable approximately 1,440 school teachers to revitalize their knowledge and teaching of American history, particularly as it relates to the relationship between specific sites and the episodes in history, the writers, and/or the artists associated with that location. These teachers would annually reach approximately 180,000 students.</p> <p>Support for 20 Enduring Questions projects would enable faculty members to develop a new course at the undergraduate level to grapple with the most fundamental concerns of the humanities, and to join with their students in deep, sustained programs of reading in order to encounter influential thinkers over the centuries and into the present day. These questions will include: What is the good life? What is justice? What is friendship? Is there a human nature, and, if so, what is it? Each participating faculty member would conduct the newly created course at least twice, with each iteration reaching approximately 25 students.</p>
	<p>2) Strengthen efforts to enhance the availability and quality of humanities teaching and learning in the nation’s community colleges, especially the study of diverse cultures and historical perspectives.</p>	<p>The NEH’s Bridging Cultures at Community Colleges projects will be discontinued in FY 2016. A new competition, one that would better address the teaching of the humanities at community colleges, is currently in an early developmental stage.</p>
	<p>3) Support efforts of faculty at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges and Universities to deepen their knowledge in the humanities and strengthen their humanities offerings.</p>	<p>Humanities Initiatives at Presidentially Designated Institutions will provide 10 grants to support faculty professional development activities for improvement in humanities instruction, as well as other capacity building activities at these institutions.</p>

PROGRAM DIVISION/ REQUIRED FUNDING	PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS	FY 2016 PLANNED PERFORMANCE LEVELS
ED. CONT'D	4) Develop and support NEH's EDSITEment web portal as a means of enriching online teaching and learning resources available to teachers, students, and parents.	Special encouragement would be provided for projects that will produce materials for inclusion on EDSITEment, the Endowment's nationally recognized website for K-12 teachers seeking rich humanities resources on the Internet.
PRESERVATION AND ACCESS \$15,200,000	C: Preserve and increase access to cultural heritage resources that constitute the cultural and intellectual patrimony of the American people and that are important to research, education, and public understanding of the humanities.	
	1) Support the preservation of and expanded access to historically significant collections in libraries, archives, historical societies, and other cultural repositories.	Twenty-seven projects would preserve and/or provide access to 1,000 hours of recorded sound and video collections; 2,000 linear feet of archival documents; and 1,500,000 manuscripts, broadsides, oversize volumes, and other non-print materials.
	2) Work in partnership with other institutions, such as the Library of Congress, to digitize and make more accessible historic U.S. newspapers, including newspapers printed in languages other than English.	Cooperative agreements would digitize hundreds of thousands of microfilm pages of historic newspapers.
	3) Support the creation of research tools and reference works of major importance to the humanities.	Grants would be made to 8 projects to begin or continue work on the preparation of dictionaries, atlases, encyclopedias, and textbases central to knowledge and understanding of the humanities.
	4) Work in partnership with the National Science Foundation to support projects to record, document, and archive endangered languages worldwide, with a special emphasis on endangered Native American languages.	Three projects would support the creation of tools—such as bilingual dictionaries, grammars, and text collections—that document languages threatened with extinction.

PROGRAM DIVISION/ REQUIRED FUNDING	PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS	FY 2016 PLANNED PERFORMANCE LEVELS
PRESERV. AND ACCESS \$15,200,000	5) Support research that leads to new digital tools, technologies, national standards, best practices, and other methodologies for the preservation of collections and cultural resources.	Four projects would support the creation of new digital tools, technologies, national standards, best practices, and other methodologies for the preservation of collections and cultural resources.
	6) Support the training of staff from the nation's cultural repositories in the appropriate procedures for preserving and enhancing access to humanities collections.	Six awards would be made for regional and national education programs that are providing training for 400,000 people in U.S. museums, libraries, archives, and historical organizations.
	7) Provide support for basic preservation activities to small and mid-sized libraries, archives, museums, and historical organizations.	Projects supported would assist in preserving collections at 80 institutions in 32 states. Approximately 35 percent of the awards would go to first-time NEH grantees.
	D: Provide opportunities for American citizens of all ages and wherever located to engage in lifelong learning in the humanities.	
PUBLIC PROGRAMS \$13,454,000	1) Support efforts by museums and historical organizations to produce interpretive exhibitions and educational materials that convey significant humanities themes and topics.	Twenty-nine grants would support exhibitions, web-based programs, and other public education programs would employ various delivery mechanisms at museums and historical organizations across the country.
	2) Support substantive documentary films, radio programs, and online media presentations that advance public understanding of the humanities and promote citizen engagement in consideration of humanities issues and themes.	Twenty-nine grants for television/radio projects would produce 105 broadcast hours and draw a cumulative audience of approximately 35.5 million people.
	3) Support high quality interpretative panel exhibitions and public programs that interpret the humanities at selected libraries, museums, and cultural organization across the nation through small grants.	Twenty-nine grants would be made to libraries, museums and cultural organizations that receive smaller versions of NEH-funded exhibitions through the NEH on the Road cooperative agreement to be used for additional public programming.

PROGRAM DIVISION/ REQUIRED FUNDING	PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS	FY 2016 PLANNED PERFORMANCE LEVELS
PUBLIC PROG.	4) Support humanities projects that make creative use of new technologies to enhance the quality and reach of public humanities programming.	Eleven digital projects will produce online and mobile games and virtual environments, innovative interpretive websites, mobile applications, virtual tours, and other digital formats to engage citizens in thoughtful reflection on culture, identity, and history
FEDERAL/STATE PARTNERSHIP \$43,040,000	E: Maintain and strengthen partnerships with the state humanities councils.	
	1) Support state council efforts to develop locally initiated humanities programs for the people in each state.	Support for the programs and operations of 56 state humanities councils would make possible high quality locally initiated humanities programs throughout the nation, including 4,000 reading and discussion programs, 625 exhibitions, 1,100 literacy programs, 1,100 speakers bureau presentations, 775 teacher institutes and workshops, 1,375 conferences and symposia, 400 Chautauqua events, 3,250 media program events, 400 technology projects, 188 preservation projects and 1,350 local history projects.
	2) Encourage high quality council-conducted humanities programs in the various states.	Support for the programs and operations of 56 state humanities councils would make possible high quality locally initiated humanities programs throughout the nation, including 12,000 reading and discussion programs, 1,875 exhibitions, 3,300 literacy programs, 3,300 speakers bureau presentations, 2,325 teacher institutes and workshops, 4,125 conferences and symposia, 1,200 Chautauqua events, 9,750 media program events, 1,200 technology projects, 562 preservation projects and 4,050 local history projects.
	3) Encourage state humanities councils in their efforts to create and support humanities-rich websites and digital projects.	Support for the programs and operations of the state humanities councils would make possible 1,000 high technology projects.
	4) Support state humanities councils in ongoing collaborations with colleges and universities, museums, libraries, historical societies, and other institutions.	Five thousand collaborations with colleges and universities, museums, libraries, historical societies, and other institutions would be conducted.
	5) Recognize and encourage council activities that promote civil discussion, particularly of issues that divide Americans.	Five thousand programs to promote civil discussion would be conducted.

PROGRAM DIVISION/ REQUIRED FUNDING	PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS	FY 2016 PLANNED PERFORMANCE LEVELS
OFFICE OF DIGITAL HUMANITIES \$4,480,000	F: Provide a focal point for development of the digital humanities.	
	1) Provide national leadership in spurring innovation and best practices in the digital humanities.	Twenty-one Digital Start-Up projects would set the pace for innovation within humanities research and education. These projects would receive extensive media coverage and have a national and international impact on how new scholarship is conducted.
	2) Encourage and support innovative digital projects and programs that will enhance the way humanities research is conducted and the way the humanities are studied, taught, and presented in the United States.	Five national summer institutes training American scholars on digital methods for humanities research would be supported. These methods, including geospatial analysis, data mining, sound analysis, information retrieval and visualization, and others, would lead to new research across humanities domains.
CHALLENGE GRANTS \$8,500,000	G: Strengthen the institutional base of the humanities through financial incentives provided by matching challenge grants.	
	1) Encourage and support efforts of educational and cultural organizations to secure nonfederal sources of funding in support of humanities projects and programs.	Twenty-four cultural and educational institution would engage in long-range planning with the encouragement of an NEH Challenge Grant.
	2) Encourage efforts of cultural and educational institutions to attract and increase nonfederal contributions to their humanities resources and activities.	By FY 2020, NEH Challenge Grants awarded in FY 2016 would generate more than \$34 million in nonfederal donations to recipient institutions in support of their humanities activities.
	3) Support the efforts of cultural and educational institutions to use digital technologies, where appropriate, in their humanities activities.	The efforts of cultural and educational institutions to use digital technologies would be encouraged.
	4) Encourage Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and two-year colleges to take advantage of special Challenge grant opportunities designed with these institutions in mind.	Three Challenge Grants would be awarded to Presidentially-designated minority-serving institutions and two-year colleges. When completed, these challenges would leverage \$3 million in third-party support for these vital institutions.

PROGRAM DIVISION/ REQUIRED FUNDING	PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS	FY 2016 PLANNED PERFORMANCE LEVELS
PARTNERSHIPS AND FUND- RAISING \$2,400,000	<p>H: Stimulate third-party support for humanities projects and programs.</p> <p>1) Encourage and support efforts of educational and cultural organizations to secure nonfederal sources of funding in support of humanities projects and programs.</p> <p>2) Leverage the private sector contributions of the nation's businesses, foundations, and philanthropic-minded individuals on behalf of humanities projects and programs.</p>	<p>Fund-raising by recipients of an NEH matching award would generate more than \$2.4 million in third-party support for humanities projects.</p> <p>NEH partnerships with the private-sector would generate \$1.5 million for exemplary activities in the humanities.</p>
NEW PROGRAM INITIATIVES \$5,500,000	<p>I. Create program initiatives that advance knowledge and understanding in the humanities in the United States in new ways.</p> <p>New initiatives and programs address the Endowment's primary strategic objective—to advance knowledge and understanding in the humanities—in novel ways.</p>	<p>Through <i>The Common Good</i>, the Endowment will encourage the deployment of the humanities around important national challenges and public issues, taking advantage of new avenues for research and expression made possible by the continuing revolution in digital media. The initiative will support: (1) continuation and expansion of <i>Standing Together: The Humanities and the Experience of War</i>, which connects the humanities to the experiences of veterans and service members; (2) a new "Public Scholar Program," a long-term effort to encourage and promote humanities research and writing for a wider reading public; (3) a new "Humanities Open Book" program, in partnership with the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, designed to make outstanding, out-of-print humanities books available electronically, and free of charge, to the American people; (4) "Community Engagement" projects in museums, libraries, and other public venues that draw on the humanities to offer perspectives on complex questions facing Americans as members of communities and as citizens; (5) continuation of the newly launched Digital Projects for the Public program; (6) "Our Common Heritage," a new program that will support local community events in cities and towns devoted to digitizing cultural heritage materials such as photographic materials, maps, films, letters, and other historical materials for exhibition, study, discussion, and preservation; and (7) activities of humanities councils across the country, who are already heavily invested in the public humanities.</p>

II. Table A	NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES FY 2015 PERFORMANCE PLAN		
PROGRAM DIVISION/ REQUIRED FUNDING	PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS	FY 2015 PLANNED PERFORMANCE LEVELS	
RESEARCH PROGRAMS \$14,784,000	A: Facilitate basic research and original scholarship in the humanities.		
	1) Provide support for fellowships and stipends that enable scholars—both those affiliated with educational institutions and those working independently—to devote a concentrated period of time to research and writing on significant subjects in all fields of the humanities.		Support will be provided for 190 individual scholars to make significant progress on important humanities research projects through fellowships and stipends.
	2) Support collaborative research projects on significant subjects in the humanities.		Support will be provided for 33 important long-term collaborative projects in the humanities such as scholarly editions, translations, archaeological excavations and analyses and other complex, large-scale undertakings. In addition, 24 previously awarded grants will receive ongoing support through NEH matching funds.
	3) Encourage international scholarly collaboration in the humanities.		Awards for 23 humanities fellowship programs at independent research institutions will support the work of 72 humanities scholars who are making significant contributions to scholarship in the humanities.
	4) Encourage the use of digital technologies in scholarly research and the dissemination of research findings.		Applicants will be encouraged to harness the vast potential of advanced digital technology in the conduct and dissemination of their research.
	5) Work in partnership with the National Science Foundation to support projects to record, document, and archive endangered languages worldwide, with a special emphasis on endangered Native American languages.		Ten projects will be supported through the Endowment's multi-year funding partnership with the National Science Foundation to provide awards to scholars engaged in recording and archiving key languages before they become extinct.
	6) Support humanities scholarship and related course development by faculty at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges and Universities.		Support will enable 9 individual scholars who teach at historically black colleges and universities, at institutions with high Hispanic enrollment, and at tribal colleges and universities to make significant progress on important scholarly projects in the humanities through faculty research awards.

PROGRAM DIVISION/ REQUIRED FUNDING	PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS	FY 2015 PLANNED PERFORMANCE LEVELS
<p style="text-align: center;">EDUCATION PROGRAMS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$13,265,000</p>	<p>B: Strengthen teaching and learning in the humanities in elementary and secondary schools and institutions of higher education.</p>	
	<p>1) Strengthen teaching and learning in the humanities in elementary and secondary schools and institutions of higher education.</p>	<p>Support for 50 NEH summer seminars and institutes will enable 535 college teachers and 535 school teachers to revitalize their knowledge and teaching of the humanities. College teachers participating in seminars and institutes during the summer of 2016 will reach approximately 93,625 students annually; school teacher participants would reach approximately 66,875 annually.</p> <p>Support for 20 “Landmarks of American History and Culture” workshops to take place in the summer of 2016 will enable approximately 1,440 school teachers to revitalize their knowledge and teaching of American history, particularly as it relates to the relationship between specific sites and the episodes in history, the writers, and/or the artists associated with that location. These teachers will annually reach approximately 180,000 students.</p> <p>Support for 21 Enduring Questions projects will enable faculty members to develop a new course at the undergraduate level to grapple with the most fundamental concerns of the humanities, and to join with their students in deep, sustained programs of reading in order to encounter influential thinkers over the centuries and into the present day. These questions will include: What is the good life? What is justice? What is friendship? Is there a human nature, and, if so, what is it? Each participating faculty member would conduct the newly created course at least twice, with each iteration reaching approximately 25 students.</p>
	<p>2) Strengthen efforts to enhance the availability and quality of humanities teaching and learning in the nation’s community colleges, especially the study of diverse cultures and historical perspectives.</p>	<p>Support for 3 NEH Bridging Cultures at Community Colleges projects will enable community college faculty and administrators to participate in sustained programs of faculty and curriculum development. They will work with leading scholars to develop new curricula and courses, participating in a sustained program of study and guidance, exchanging ideas through digital technology, and will present products such as syllabi and research products at a concluding conference. Community college faculty participating in these projects will reach approximately 190 students annually.</p>
	<p>3) Support efforts of faculty at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges and Universities to deepen their knowledge in the humanities and strengthen their humanities offerings.</p>	<p>Humanities Initiatives at Presidentially Designated Institutions will provide 8 grants to support faculty professional development activities for improvement in humanities instruction, as well as other capacity building activities at these institutions.</p>

PROGRAM DIVISION/ REQUIRED FUNDING	PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS	FY 2015 PLANNED PERFORMANCE LEVELS
ED. CONT'D	4) Develop and support NEH's EDSITEment web portal as a means of enriching online teaching and learning resources available to teachers, students, and parents.	Special encouragement will be provided for projects that will produce materials for inclusion on EDSITEment, the Endowment's nationally recognized website for K-12 teachers seeking rich humanities resources on the Internet.
PRESERVATION AND ACCESS \$15,460,000	C: Preserve and increase access to cultural heritage resources that constitute the cultural and intellectual patrimony of the American people and that are important to research, education, and public understanding of the humanities.	
	1) Support the preservation of and expanded access to historically significant collections in libraries, archives, historical societies, and other cultural repositories.	Twenty-seven projects will preserve and/or provide access to 1,000 hours of recorded sound and video collections; 2,000 linear feet of archival documents; and 1,500,000 manuscripts, broadsides, oversize volumes, and other non-print materials.
	2) Work in partnership with other institutions, such as the Library of Congress, to digitize and make more accessible historic U.S. newspapers, including newspapers printed in languages other than English.	Cooperative agreements supported through the <i>Bridging Cultures</i> programs will digitize hundreds of thousands of microfilm pages of historic newspapers.
	3) Support the creation of research tools and reference works of major importance to the humanities.	Grants will be made to 10 projects to begin or continue work on the preparation of dictionaries, atlases, encyclopedias, and textbases central to knowledge and understanding of the humanities.
	4) Work in partnership with the National Science Foundation to support projects to record, document, and archive endangered languages worldwide, with a special emphasis on endangered Native American languages.	Four projects will support the creation of tools—such as bilingual dictionaries, grammars, and text collections—that document languages threatened with extinction.

PROGRAM DIVISION/ REQUIRED FUNDING	PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS	FY 2015 PLANNED PERFORMANCE LEVELS
PRESERV. AND ACCESS \$15,460,000	5) Support research that leads to new digital tools, technologies, national standards, best practices, and other methodologies for the preservation of collections and cultural resources.	Four projects will support the creation of new digital tools, technologies, national standards, best practices, and other methodologies for the preservation of collections and cultural resources.
	6) Support the training of staff from the nation's cultural repositories in the appropriate procedures for preserving and enhancing access to humanities collections.	Four awards will be made for regional and national education programs that are providing training for 3,750 people in U.S. museums, libraries, archives, and historical organizations.
	7) Provide support for basic preservation activities to small and mid-sized libraries, archives, museums, and historical organizations.	Projects supported will assist in preserving collections at 80 institutions in 32 states. Approximately 35 percent of the awards will go to first-time NEH grantees.
PUBLIC PROGRAMS \$13,684,000	D: Provide opportunities for American citizens of all ages and wherever located to engage in lifelong learning in the humanities.	
	1) Support efforts by museums and historical organizations to produce interpretive exhibitions and educational materials that convey significant humanities themes and topics.	Thirty grants will support exhibitions, web-based programs, and other public education programs will employ various delivery mechanisms at museums and historical organizations across the country.
	2) Support substantive documentary films, radio programs, and online media presentations that advance public understanding of the humanities and promote citizen engagement in consideration of humanities issues and themes.	Thirty grants for television/radio projects will produce 105 broadcast hours and draw a cumulative audience of approximately 35.5 million people.
	3) Support high quality interpretative panel exhibitions and public programs that interpret the humanities at selected libraries, museums, and cultural organization across the nation through small grants.	Twenty-nine grants will be made to libraries, museums and cultural organizations that receive smaller versions of NEH-funded exhibitions through the NEH on the Road cooperative agreement to be used for additional public programming.

PROGRAM DIVISION/ REQUIRED FUNDING	PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS	FY 2015 PLANNED PERFORMANCE LEVELS
PUBLIC PROG.	4) Support humanities projects that make creative use of new technologies to enhance the quality and reach of public humanities programming.	Six digital projects will produce online and mobile games and virtual environments, innovative interpretive websites, mobile applications, virtual tours, and other digital formats to engage citizens in thoughtful reflection on culture, identity, and history.
FEDERAL/STATE PARTNERSHIP \$42,528,000	E: Maintain and strengthen partnerships with the state humanities councils.	
	1) Support state council efforts to develop locally initiated humanities programs for the people in each state.	Support for the programs and operations of 56 state humanities councils will make possible high quality locally initiated humanities programs throughout the nation, including 4,000 reading and discussion programs, 625 exhibitions, 1,100 literacy programs, 1,100 speakers bureau presentations, 775 teacher institutes and workshops, 1,375 conferences and symposia, 400 Chautauqua events, 3,250 media program events, 400 technology projects, 188 preservation projects and 1,350 local history projects.
	2) Encourage high quality council-conducted humanities programs in the various states.	Support for the programs and operations of 56 state humanities councils will make possible high quality council-conducted humanities programs throughout the nation, including 12,000 reading and discussion programs, 1,875 exhibitions, 3,300 literacy programs, 3,300 speakers bureau presentations, 2,325 teacher institutes and workshops, 4,125 conferences and symposia, 1,200 Chautauqua events, 9,750 media program events, 1,200 technology projects, 562 preservation projects and 4,050 local history projects.
	3) Encourage state humanities councils in their efforts to create and support humanities-rich websites and digital projects.	Support for the programs and operations of the state humanities councils will make possible 1,000 high technology projects.
	4) Support state humanities councils in ongoing collaborations with colleges and universities, museums, libraries, historical societies, and other institutions.	Five thousand collaborations with colleges and universities, museums, libraries, historical societies, and other institutions will be conducted.
	5) Recognize and encourage council activities that promote civil discussion, particularly of issues that divide Americans.	Five thousand programs to promote civil discussion will be conducted.

PROGRAM DIVISION/ REQUIRED FUNDING	PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS	FY 2015 PLANNED PERFORMANCE LEVELS
CONT'D	5) Recognize and encourage council activities that promote civil discussion, particularly of issues that divide Americans.	Five thousand programs to promote civil discussion will be conducted.
OFFICE OF DIGITAL HUMANITIES \$4,400,000	F: Provide a focal point for development of the digital humanities.	
	1) Provide national leadership in spurring innovation and best practices in the digital humanities.	Twenty Digital Start-Up projects will set the pace for innovation within humanities research and education. These projects will receive extensive media coverage and have a national and international impact on how new scholarship is conducted.
	2) Encourage and support innovative digital projects and programs that will enhance the way humanities research is conducted and the way the humanities are studied, taught, and presented in the United States.	Five national summer institutes training American scholars on digital methods for humanities research will be supported. These methods, including geospatial analysis, data mining, sound analysis, information retrieval and visualization, and others, will lead to new research across humanities domains.
CHALLENGE GRANTS \$8,500,000	G: Strengthen the institutional base of the humanities through financial incentives provided by matching challenge grants.	
	1) Encourage cultural and educational institutions to engage in long-range planning in order to strengthen their humanities programs intellectually and financially.	Twenty-two cultural and educational institution will engage in long-range planning with the encouragement of an NEH Challenge Grant.
	2) Encourage efforts of cultural and educational institutions to attract and increase nonfederal contributions to their humanities resources and activities.	By FY 2019, NEH Challenge Grants awarded in FY 2015 will generate more than \$32 million in nonfederal donations to recipient institutions in support of their humanities activities.

PROGRAM DIVISION/ REQUIRED FUNDING	PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS	FY 2015 PLANNED PERFORMANCE LEVELS
	3) Support the efforts of cultural and educational institutions to use digital technologies, where appropriate, in their humanities activities.	The efforts of cultural and educational institutions to use digital technologies will be encouraged.
	4) Encourage Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and two-year colleges to take advantage of special Challenge grant opportunities designed with these institutions in mind.	Two Challenge Grants will be awarded to Presidentially-designated minority-serving institutions and two-year colleges. When completed, these challenges will leverage \$2 million in third-party support for these vital institutions.
	H: Stimulate third-party support for humanities projects and programs.	
	1) Encourage and support efforts of educational and cultural organizations to secure nonfederal sources of funding in support of humanities projects and programs.	Fund-raising by recipients of an NEH matching award will generate more than \$2.4 million in third-party support for humanities projects.
PARTNERSHIPS AND FUND- RAISING \$2,900,000	2) Leverage the private sector contributions of the nation's businesses, foundations, and philanthropic-minded individuals on behalf of humanities projects and programs.	NEH partnerships with the private-sector will generate \$1.5 million for exemplary activities in the humanities.

PROGRAM DIVISION/ REQUIRED FUNDING	PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS	FY 2015 PLANNED PERFORMANCE LEVELS
<p style="text-align: center;">NEW PROGRAM INITIATIVES</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$3,500,000</p>	<p>I. Create program initiatives that advance knowledge and understanding in the humanities in the United States in new ways.</p> <p>1) New initiatives and programs address the Endowment's primary strategic objective—to advance knowledge and understanding in the humanities—in novel ways.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through the <i>Bridging Cultures</i> initiative, funding will be provided to enhance Americans' understanding of their own rich cultural heritage, as well as the cultural complexity of the world in which we live. The initiative will support: (1) community college programs designed to expand opportunities for students to study diverse cultures and histories; (2) development of teacher support and online curriculum for the teaching of world history, cultures and languages in schools and community colleges; (3) national dissemination of model <i>Bridging Cultures</i> programs for the public, including community presentations of a <i>Bridging Cultures</i> film series and a "bookshelf" for libraries, to engage both live and online audiences in consideration of the themes of the initiative; (4) strengthened support for humanities research on <i>Bridging Cultures</i> themes, including interdisciplinary research opportunities engaging scholars in collaborations supported by other research agencies such as NIH and NSF; (5) Endowment-wide emphasis on development of new digital technologies (such as "apps" for smartphones and tablet computers) to engage students, teachers and life-long learners in opportunities to learn about connections between cultures; (6) expansion of the Endowment's National Digital Newspaper Program to include as a new priority the digitization of historic American newspapers from immigrant communities with newspapers printed in languages other than English, such as Spanish, Italian, German, and French; (7) documentary films that explore other countries and cultures; (8) scholarly forums open to the public that synthesize cutting-edge humanities scholarship on new <i>Bridging Cultures</i> themes and lay the groundwork for ongoing public programs; (9) collaboration with state humanities councils in extending the reach of national <i>Bridging Cultures</i> programs and identifying the best new ideas for the work of the initiative in American communities; (10) and international collaborations that facilitate research and scholarly exchange among U.S. scholars and their counterparts elsewhere in the world.

II. Table A		NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES FY 2014 PERFORMANCE PLAN	
PROGRAM DIVISION/ REQUIRED FUNDING	PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS	FY 2014 ACTUAL PERFORMANCE LEVELS	
RESEARCH PROGRAMS \$14,752,000	A: To facilitate basic research and original scholarship in the humanities.		
	1) Support is provided that enables scholars—both those affiliated with educational institutions and those working independently—to devote a concentrated period of time to research and writing on significant subjects in all fields of the humanities.	Support was provided for 161 individual scholars to make significant progress on important humanities research projects through fellowships and stipends.	
	2) Support is provided for collaborative research projects that develop significant intellectual advances and resources for scholars, teachers, students, and the general public.	Support was provided for 45 important long-term collaborative projects in the humanities such as scholarly editions, translations, archaeological excavations and analyses and other complex, large-scale undertakings. In addition, 24 previously awarded grants received ongoing support through NEH matching funds.	
	3) Support is provided for overseas research in the humanities by American scholars and, where appropriate, encouragement offered for international collaboration in research on significant topics in the humanities.	Awards for 24 humanities fellowship programs at independent research institutions supported the work of 76 humanities scholars who are making significant contributions to scholarship in the humanities.	
	4) Support is provided for humanities scholarship by faculty members at Historically Black, Hispanic-serving, and Tribal colleges and universities.	Support enabled 10 individual scholars who teach at historically black colleges and universities, at Hispanic-serving institutions, and at tribal colleges and universities to make significant progress on important scholarly projects in the humanities through faculty research awards.	

PROGRAM DIVISION/ REQUIRED FUNDING	PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS	FY 2014 ACTUAL PERFORMANCE LEVELS
<p align="center">EDUCATION PROGRAMS</p> <p align="center">\$13,237,000</p>	<p>B: To strengthen teaching and learning in the humanities in schools and colleges across the nation.</p>	
	<p>1) Teachers are provided opportunities to renew and deepen their knowledge of the humanities.</p>	<p>Support for 48 NEH summer seminars and institutes enabled 511 college teachers and 544 school teachers to revitalize their knowledge and teaching of the humanities. College teachers participating in seminars and institutes during the summer of 2015 will reach approximately 89,425 students annually; school teacher participants would reach approximately 68,000 annually.</p> <p>Support for 21 “Landmarks of American History and Culture” workshops to take place in the summer of 2015 will enable approximately 1,512 school teachers to revitalize their knowledge and teaching of American history, particularly as it relates to the relationship between specific sites and the episodes in history, the writers, and/or the artists associated with that location. These teachers will annually reach approximately 189,000 students.</p> <p>Support for 3 NEH Bridging Cultures at Community Colleges projects enabled community college faculty and administrators to participate in sustained programs of faculty and curriculum development. They worked with leading scholars to develop new curricula and courses, participating in a sustained program of study and guidance, exchanging ideas through digital technology, and presented products such as syllabi and research products at a concluding conference. Community college faculty participating in these projects will reach approximately 190 students annually.</p> <p>Support for 20 Enduring Questions projects enabled faculty members to develop a new course at the undergraduate level to grapple with the most fundamental concerns of the humanities, and to join with their students in deep, sustained programs of reading in order to encounter influential thinkers over the centuries and into the present day. Each participating faculty member will conduct the newly created course at least twice, with each iteration reaching approximately 25 students.</p>
	<p>2) Support is provided for humanities education programming in Historically Black, Hispanic-serving, and Tribal colleges and universities across the country.</p>	<p>Humanities Initiatives at Presidentially Designated Institutions provided 10 grants to support faculty professional development activities for improvement in humanities instruction, as well as other capacity building activities at these institutions.</p>

PROGRAM DIVISION/ REQUIRED FUNDING	PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS	FY 2014 ACTUAL PERFORMANCE LEVELS
<p style="text-align: center;">PRESERVATION AND ACCESS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$15,426,000</p>	<p>C: To preserve and increase the availability of cultural and intellectual resources essential to the American people.</p>	
	<p>1) Support is provided to preserve and create intellectual access to humanities collections and resources. Supported activities include digitizing collections; arranging and describing archival and manuscript collections; cataloging collections of printed works, photographs, recorded sound, moving image, art, and material culture; preservation reformatting; deacidification of collections; preserving and improving access to humanities resources in “born digital” form; creating research tools and reference works; and developing technical standards, best practices, and tools for preserving and enhancing access to humanities collections.</p>	<p>Grants were made to 10 projects to begin or continue work on the preparation of dictionaries, atlases, encyclopedias, and textbases central to knowledge and understanding of the humanities.</p> <p>Twenty-six projects are preserving and/or providing access to 927 hours of recorded sound and video collections; 1,630 linear feet of archival documents; and 2,205,502 manuscripts, broadsides, oversize volumes, and other non-print materials.</p> <p>Cooperative agreements are digitizing hundreds of thousands of microfilm pages of historic newspapers.</p> <p>Support was be provided for 3 research and development projects concerned with standards and procedures.</p>
	<p>2) Support is provided to train staff from the nation's cultural repositories in the appropriate procedures for preserving and enhancing access to the humanities collections for which they are responsible.</p>	<p>Four awards were be made for regional and national education programs that are providing training for 309,226 people in U.S. museums, libraries, archives, and historical organizations.</p>

PROGRAM DIVISION/ REQUIRED FUNDING	PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS	FY 2014 ACTUAL PERFORMANCE LEVELS
PRESERV. AND ACCESS \$15,426,000	3) Support is provided to museums, libraries, archives, historical organizations, and other cultural institutions to extend the useful life of fragile humanities collections and to develop sustainable strategies for their care.	Projects supported are helping 17 cultural institutions preserve and ensure continued access to their humanities collections institutions through preventive conservation measures.
	4) The Endowment extends its reach to institutions across the country by providing support for basic preservation activities to small and mid-sized libraries, archives, museums, and historical organizations.	Projects supported are assisting in preserving collections at 70 institutions in 30 states. Approximately 20 percent of the awards went to first-time NEH grantees.
PUBLIC PROGRAMS \$13,654,000	D: To provide opportunities for Americans to engage in lifelong learning in the humanities.	
	1) Substantive media presentations, exhibitions, reading and discussion programs, and other public projects advance public understanding of the humanities.	Thirty television/radio projects are producing 105 broadcast hours that will draw a cumulative audience of approximately 35.5 million people. Thirty exhibitions, reading, viewing, and discussion programs, web-based programs, and other public education programs are employing various delivery mechanisms at venues across the country.
	2) High quality interpretative panel exhibitions and public programs are circulated to libraries through Small Grants to Libraries, and selected sites that receive smaller versions of NEH-funded exhibitions through the NEH on the Road cooperative agreement receive funds for additional public programming.	Twenty-nine grants were made to museums that receive smaller versions of NEH-funded exhibitions through the NEH on the Road cooperative agreement to be used for additional public programming. Twenty-five grants were made through the American Library Association (ALA) for the exhibition project <i>Dust, Drought, and Dreams Gone Dry: A Traveling Exhibit</i> and Public Programs for Libraries about the Dust Bowl and 50 grants through an interagency agreement with the Smithsonian Institution to humanities organizations that are hosting the traveling exhibition, <i>Changing America</i> .

PROGRAM DIVISION/ REQUIRED FUNDING	PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS	FY 2014 ACTUAL PERFORMANCE LEVELS
<p align="center">NEW PROGRAM INITIATIVES</p> <p align="center">\$7,882,000</p>	<p>E: To create new program initiatives that respond to needs and opportunities in American society.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$3,494,000. Through the <i>Bridging Cultures</i> initiative, funding was provided to enhance Americans' understanding of their own rich cultural heritage, as well as the cultural complexity of the world in which we live. The initiative supported: (1) community college programs designed to expand opportunities for students to study diverse cultures and histories; (2) development of teacher support and online curriculum for the teaching of world history, cultures and languages in schools and community colleges; (3) national dissemination of model Bridging Cultures programs for the public, including community presentations of a Bridging Cultures film series and a "bookshelf" for libraries, to engage both live and online audiences in consideration of the themes of the initiative; (4) strengthened support for humanities research on Bridging Cultures themes, including interdisciplinary research opportunities engaging scholars in collaborations supported by other research agencies such as NIH and NSF; (5) an Endowment-wide emphasis on development of new digital technologies (such as "apps" for smartphones and tablet computers) to engage students, teachers and life-long learners in opportunities to learn about connections between cultures; (6) expansion of the Endowment's National Digital Newspaper Program to include as a new priority the digitization of historic American newspapers from immigrant communities with newspapers printed in languages other than English, such as Spanish, Italian, German, and French; (7) documentary films that explore other countries and cultures; (8) scholarly forums open to the public that synthesize cutting-edge humanities scholarship on new Bridging Cultures themes and lay the groundwork for ongoing public programs; (9) collaboration with state humanities councils in extending the reach of national Bridging Cultures programs and identifying the best new ideas for the work of the initiative in American communities; (10) and international collaborations to facilitate research and scholarly exchange among U.S. scholars and their counterparts elsewhere in the world. • \$4,388,000. Funding was provided through the Digital Humanities program to foster the development of world-class, leading-edge research and education in the emerging field of digital humanities. Digital Humanities supported: 1) Digging into Data Challenge, an international collaboration among seven research teams in Canada, Europe, and the United States to explore how vast libraries of digitized books, newspapers, art, and music can be used for advanced scholarship; 2) Digital Humanities Start-Up Grants to provide "seed grant" funding to American scholars, universities, libraries, archives or non-profits that use technology in an innovative way; 3) Digital Humanities Implementation Grants to support projects that have already demonstrated a successful beginning phase and that have a clear plan for moving towards full implementation; 4) Institutes for Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities to encourage the sharing of best practices among humanities scholars; and 5) NEH/ German Research Foundation Bilateral Digital Humanities Programs jointly supported by NEH and the German Research Foundation to encourage collaborative digital humanities projects between American and German institutions.

PROGRAM DIVISION/ REQUIRED FUNDING	PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS	FY 2014 ACTUAL PERFORMANCE LEVELS
NEW PROG. CON'T.	2) Agency-wide initiatives are developed in selected humanities areas.	Additional awards were made through the NEH/NSF "Documenting Endangered Languages" special initiative.
CHALLENGE GRANTS \$8,357,000	F: To strengthen the institutional base of the humanities. Support is provided for institutions to increase nonfederal contributions for their humanities activities and enhance their resources over the long term.	By FY 2018, NEH Challenge Grants awarded in FY 2014 will generate more than \$20 million in nonfederal donations to recipient institutions in support of their humanities activities.
FEDERAL/STATE PARTNERSHIP \$42,435,000	G: To maintain and strengthen partnerships with the state humanities councils. Support is provided to the councils to encourage locally initiated, substantive humanities programs for the people in each state.	Support for the programs and operations of 56 state humanities councils made possible high quality state and local humanities projects throughout the nation, including 17,900 reading and discussion programs, 2,500 exhibitions, 5,200 literacy programs, 4,200 speakers bureau presentations, 3,000 teacher institutes and workshops, 5,700 conferences and symposia, 1,850 Chautauqua events, 6,000 media program events, 1,500 technology projects, 790 preservation projects and 5,000 local history projects.

PROGRAM DIVISION/ REQUIRED FUNDING	PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS	FY 2014 ACTUAL PERFORMANCE LEVELS
<p>PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>\$499,000</p>	<p>H: To establish collaborative partnerships with individuals and institutions in support of the humanities.</p>	
	<p>1) Partnerships are forged to leverage new resources for the humanities and expand audiences for the humanities.</p>	<p>The Endowment developed of a number of new partnerships with other institutions and organizations, leveraging approximately \$1.5 million in new funding for humanities programs.</p>
	<p>2) New programming, funding, and administrative partnerships are established with other agencies, foundations, and organizations, both public and private.</p>	<p>NEH partnerships included the following: 1) cooperation with the Library of Congress, the National Archives, the Smithsonian, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services to plan for the creation of a Digital Public Library of America; 2) the National Digital Newspapers Program, a multi-year collaboration with the Library of Congress to digitize and make publicly available on the World Wide Web newspapers already preserved on microfilm through the United States Newspapers Program; 3) a program of fellowships sponsored jointly by NEH and the Library of Congress that supports humanities scholars who wish to conduct research at the Library of Congress; 4) the Advanced Research Fellowships on Japan Program jointly sponsored by NEH and the Japan-United States Friendship Commission; 5) EDSITEment; 6) the Digging into Data Challenge, an international collaboration among seven research teams in Canada, Europe, and the United States to explore how vast libraries of digitized books, newspapers, art, and music can be used for advanced scholarship; 7) NEH/ German Research Foundation Bilateral Digital Humanities Programs jointly supported by NEH and the German Research Foundation to encourage collaborative digital humanities projects between American and German institutions; 8) the <i>Bridging Cultures</i> Bookshelf project, a partnership with the Carnegie Corporation of New York; 9) "The Arts and Human Development," a task force made up of other federal agencies (including NIH, the National Science Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Department of Education and others) committed to research that links creativity, health and other aspects of human well-being; 10) a portfolio of academic conferences and other international collaborations that facilitate humanities research and beneficial exchange of ideas with scholars around the world; and 11) programmatic collaboration with the National Trust for the Humanities.</p>

III. MEETING THE PERFORMANCE GOALS: REQUIRED RESOURCES AND OPERATIONAL PROCESSES

A. **Required Resources.** NEH promotes national progress in research, education, and lifelong learning in the humanities by awarding project grants to organizations and individuals in all parts of the United States. A program appropriation adequate to provide for a sufficient range of grant opportunities across all disciplines of the humanities is, thus, the Endowment's most important resource requirement. For each performance goal, we have estimated a sum that would be required to produce the desired outcomes in FY 2016:

<u>Performance Goal</u>	<u>Funding Requested*</u>
1. Facilitate basic research and original scholarship in the humanities.	\$14,536,000
2. Strengthen teaching and learning in the humanities in elementary and secondary schools and institutions of higher education.	\$13,040,000
3. Preserve and increase access to cultural heritage resources that constitute the cultural and intellectual patrimony of the American people and that are important to research, education, and public understanding of the humanities.	\$15,200,000
4. Provide opportunities for American citizens of all ages and wherever located to engage in lifelong learning in the humanities.	\$13,454,000
5. Maintain and strengthen partnerships with the state humanities councils.	\$43,040,000
6. Provide a focal point for development of the digital humanities.	\$4,480,000
7. Strengthen the institutional base of the humanities through financial incentives provided by matching challenge grants.	\$8,500,000
8. Stimulate third-party support for humanities projects and programs.	\$2,400,000
9. Create program initiatives that advance knowledge and understanding in the humanities in the United States in new ways.	\$5,500,000

* In FY 2016, the Endowment would allocate \$117,750,000 in definite and Challenge funds among programmatic activities that address the above performance goals. Another \$500,000 in definite funds would be provided for Program Development. During the year, Treasury funds totaling \$2,400,000 would also be allocated among program areas of the Endowment as needed to match nonfederal contributions in support of NEH-sponsored projects.

Also important are the kinds of administrative resources that it make possible for the Endowment's staff to advance the agency's performance goals through our daily work. Chief among these resources are the following:

- A highly trained **staff**, many of whom are credentialed practitioners of a humanities discipline;
- access to the new **information technologies** that reinforce the agency's efforts to serve the public efficiently; and
- a **physical office environment** conducive to productive work.

B. **Operational Processes.** NEH support for the humanities is provided through an annual sequence of highly selective grant competitions. Because insuring the fairness and rigor of that award process is of paramount importance—both for the sake of taxpayer value and for the integrity of the humanities—the Endowment's most essential operational process is that of conducting a national, merit-based system of grant application review. Through this system, we annually draw upon the services of hundreds of humanities practitioners from outside the agency in order knowledgeably to evaluate each project proposal submitted to NEH. The judgments of panelists and reviewers from all humanities disciplines and every part of the country weigh heavily in the agency's funding decisions.

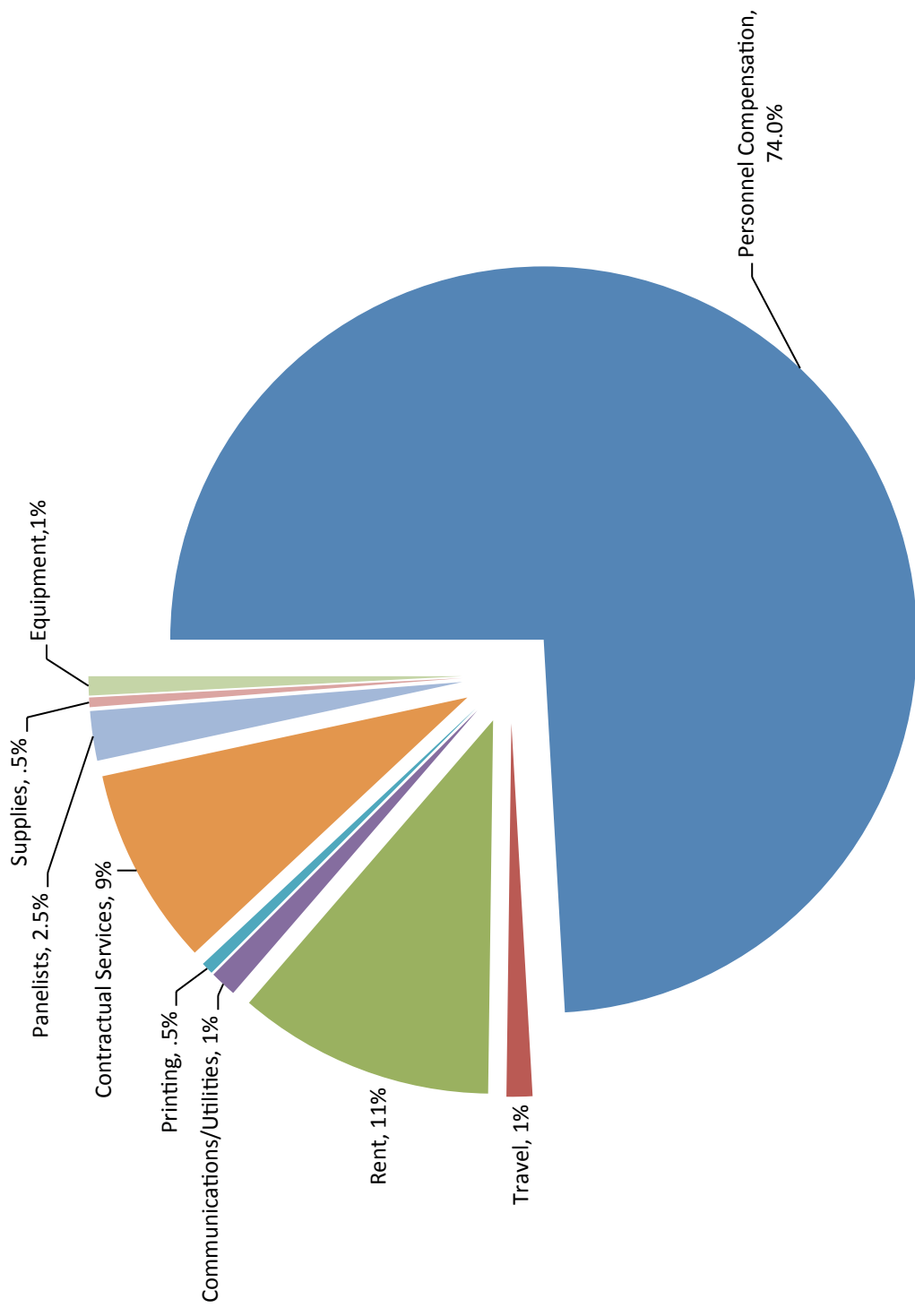
IV. MEANS OF VERIFYING AND VALIDATING PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The Endowment will use a variety of means to collect and verify information that measures our progress in attaining our performance goals:

- **Interim and final reports of grantees** will provide the most comprehensive source of information about the outcomes of NEH-supported work. From these reports the Endowment will regularly compile data about the results of activities undertaken in connection with each of our performance goals.
- To systematize the information collected from grantee reports, NEH continues to develop an **outcomes database** for its grant programs. This database is capturing information about the short- and long-term results of funded projects. At present, it links information about 6,873 humanities research projects in the Endowment's grant information database to bibliographic information about 4,809 published books that these projects produced between 1980 and 2014.

- The Endowment will conduct **site visits** as a means of documenting the progress and accomplishments of selected grantees.
- **Evaluations** of selected projects and programs will be conducted to determine whether program goals are being met.
- Information on **awards, prizes, and other forms of recognition**, such as favorable press articles, will be collected so that the agency can gain a better sense of the impact and quality of our funded projects.

FY 2016 Administration Budget Request \$27,292,000



Administrative Budget by Object Classification
(\$ in thousands)

OBJECT CLASSES		FY 2014 Final	FY 2015 Estimate	FY 2016 Request
11.1	PERSONNEL COMPENSATION BENEFITS	15,435 4,531	15,728 4,610	15,630 4,592
12.1	TOTAL-PERSONNEL COMPENSATION	19,966	20,338	20,222
21.0	TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION	289	327	305
23.1	GSA RENT	2,799	2,890	3,037
23.3	COMMUNICATIONS AND UTILITIES	291	298	315
24.0	PRINTING	144	144	144
25.1	OTHER CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	2,615	2,845	2,345
25.9	PANELIST CONTRACTS	684	625	585
26.0	SUPPLIES	116	115	113
31.0	EQUIPMENT	978	242	226
TOTAL		\$27,882¹	\$27,824²	\$27,292

¹ Includes appropriation and FY 2014 carry-over and de-obligated funds.

² Includes FY 2015 appropriations and additional FY 2014 carry-over and prior year de-obligated funds.

NEH ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET

FY 2016 Request: \$27,292,000

Introduction

The administrative budget for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) supports staff salaries and benefits, rental of office space, building security, staff travel, contractual services, equipment, supplies, and related program support activities that enable the agency to achieve its legislated mission to further support and advance high quality research, education, preservation, and public programming in the humanities. For fiscal year 2016 NEH is requesting \$27,292,000 in administrative funds to support the agency's program request of \$120,650,000.

In May of 2014, NEH and its sister agency, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), moved from their long-time home at the historic Old Post Office Building on Pennsylvania Avenue to their new location at the Constitution Center in southwest Washington, DC. This move resulted in a reduction to our facility footprint as we have worked to share space, as appropriate, with NEA, and otherwise increase operational efficiencies through shared services.

NEH Administrative Costs

The Endowment's grant-making function is the most important factor shaping the agency's administrative budget. This function directly involves the majority of NEH's staff and includes such varied tasks as the planning of programs and special initiatives, the development of application guidelines, the receipt and processing of proposals, the review of applications, the awarding of grants, and the management and oversight of the grant awards themselves. These labor-intensive tasks require a highly trained program staff that is knowledgeable about the content and methods of the humanities. Most NEH program staff hold Ph.D.s or other advanced degrees in the humanities. In addition to this highly specialized program staff, the Endowment retains the services of personnel needed to perform the everyday but essential activities involved in operating a federal agency, such as budgeting, accounting, and other financial functions; human resources; information resources management; legal counsel; public affairs and communications; and administrative services.

Personnel compensation and benefits account for more than 74 percent of agency administrative expenses. Of the remaining 26 percent, a significant portion is taken up with fixed costs—that is, items over which we have no control, including annual rent payments to the General Services Administration, building security payments for the Constitution Center, and transfers to other agencies for various electronic services, such as the government-wide Grants.gov online grant application portal.

As a grant-making agency, NEH's administrative budget includes the annual cost of operating our system for evaluating grant applications. The Endowment currently administers more than three dozen discrete grant categories that receive between 4,700 and 5,000 applications annually, resulting in the awarding of as many as 1,000 grants each year. These applications are all processed and read by NEH staff and then evaluated by experts outside of the agency, who are asked for their judgments about the quality and significance of the proposed projects. More than 800 scholars, teachers, museum curators, filmmakers, and other humanities professionals and experts serve on the more than 180 panels we convene throughout the course of a typical year. Each of these evaluators receives a \$250 honorarium. Since the majority of our panels currently are sitting panels—that is, are convened at the Endowment's offices in Washington, DC, to review applications to various grant programs—we also incur travel, lodging, and per diem expenses for each attending panelist. In FY 2014, NEH began a pilot program of remote or “virtual” panels in a number of its grant programs. This initiative resulted in a decrease in total panel expenses of more than \$60,000 from the prior year. In FY 2016, NEH will work towards a goal of conducting at least half our application-review panels remotely, which will further reduce our overall panel expenses.

Another cost directly related to our grant-making function is the expense of convening the National Council on the Humanities. The 26-member Council—which is statutorily mandated to advise the NEH Chairman on all grant applications—meets in Washington three times annually. Each Council member is compensated for his or her service. The Endowment also incurs travel, lodging, and per diem expenses for the preponderance of Council members who live outside of the Washington metropolitan area. The annual cost of convening these meetings is approximately \$105,000.

Other expenses that are directly related to our role as a grant-making agency include the cost of participating in and benefiting from the government-wide online grant application portal, Grants.gov. This transfer of funds to the Department of Health and Human Services, as well as administrative support provided internally for the Grants.gov program, is \$198,000 in FY 2016. In addition, we are continuing our electronic grants management partnership with the NEA, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, a partnership that has been ongoing since 2012. In 2016, we expect costs for NEH's portion of this program to total approximately \$140,000.

Recent Administrative Highlights

NEH has an exemplary record of extracting the most value from its administrative resources, while at the same time ensuring the highest quality service to its customers. We make every effort to reduce overhead and operating costs whenever possible, and we continually stress this priority to all our program and office managers. To counter increases in various cost categories in recent years, we have made a conscientious effort to limit other administrative cost increases.

Among our administrative improvements in recent years are:

- The development of a grant-search query form on the agency's website has enabled the public to search our grant database for a wide range of information about NEH grants. This easy-to-use feature has opened up access to grant records dating back to 1980. NEH is now working to digitize thousands of pre-1980 grant records and make this information available on our website. This massive project will be completed in FY 2015.
- In cooperation with the NEA, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, NEH is developing and testing an electronic Grants Management System ("eGMS"), which will be used by grantees to interact with NEH and manage their grants online. As a result of early developmental work on this system, a number of interactive features are already available to NEH and its grantees, including tracking of past and present grants, submission of financial and progress reports, processing of award offers, capturing of information on products and prizes that have resulted from an NEH grant, dedicated messaging, and help-ticket resolution. More grantee-friendly features are in the pipeline for this time-saving technology. This cloud-based system—developed in-house—is providing the four participating agencies with state-of-the-art software to manage all aspects of their grant-making activity.
- The Endowment has developed a thorough IT security system to guard against outside cyber threats. We have recently implemented an updated and comprehensive risk management program that sets forth an agency-wide strategy for managing security and risk. The policy covers all of NEH's information systems and describes how the agency aligns its risk management framework with pertinent NIST guidelines. We have also completed the move of our agency Internet connection to a Managed Trusted Internet Protocol Service provider that fully complies with OMB's Trusted Internet Connection requirements.
- Upon our relocation to the Constitution Center, NEH worked closely with NEA to consolidate certain administrative functions as part of our ongoing efforts to realize cost savings and streamline operations. These consolidations include such core functional areas as information technology infrastructure, grants management, media operations, and various health and safety accommodations. For example, we are sharing the following rooms and functions in the Constitution Center with our NEA colleagues: data center, media room, lunch room, resting rooms, a room for nursing mothers, and a PIV card activation station. In addition, we share NEH's library with our NEA neighbors.

Budget Estimates in Detail
(\$ in thousands)

	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
PERSONNEL COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS	19,966	20,338	20,222

These object classes fund the salaries and benefits of all employees of the Endowment, including full-time permanent, part-time permanent, temporary, and intermittent appointments (for example, the members of the National Council on the Humanities). The estimates for personnel benefits provide for the Endowment's share of contributions toward employees' retirement, health, and life insurance plans.

The FY 2016 request anticipates a slight decline in salary costs from FY 2015, which will be realized due to expected staff retirements continuing through 2016. Included in this cost estimate is the expected COLA increase of 1.3% in FY 2016. We will work to keep our staffing costs controlled by keeping the number of FTEs within our current staffing level of approximately 154. We will accomplish this by taking a hard look at all open vacancies and filling them on a priority basis, which will effectively allow us to limit the number of rehires through FY 2016. Staffing costs will also be controlled by using term appointments when we hire new program staff, which will reduce our average costs for these positions since for the most part new hires will be replacing long-serving, higher paid staff. The funding requested for FY 2016 will support an estimated 153 FTEs.

	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION	289	327	305

Travel funds support local and out-of-town travel of NEH staff to make site visits to NEH grantees, make presentations on Endowment programs, conduct grant-application workshops and other outreach activities, attend conferences and training courses, and conduct other business critical to the mission of the agency. Also supported are the travel expenses of the members of the National Council on the Humanities, who come to Washington three times per year to discuss Endowment policies, review applications, and provide advice to the NEH Chairman concerning funding of specific projects.

Since FY 2011, NEH has reduced staff travel expenses by more than 15 percent. We will continue to keep our travel costs controlled by encouraging staff to take more trips that combine multiple venues and purposes and reducing the number of staff who attend national conferences and meetings. In FY 2015, we expect to see a temporary increase in travel due to the rollout of the agency's new *The Common Good* initiative and to increased travel being undertaken by the new NEH Chairman as he carries NEH's

message to a wide variety of audiences around the country. Staff travel costs will return to a more typical level in FY 2016.

	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
GSA RENT	2,799	2,890	3,037

The FY 2016 space rental estimate reflects an increased rent level in line with GSA guidance for NEH's new office space to the Constitution Center building in southwest Washington, D.C. We have updated our rent estimates to reflect the new rate of \$50 per square foot that we are paying for our new facilities. This is an increase of nearly \$18 per square foot over the rate we had been paying at our former home in the Old Post Office Building. Counterbalancing this rent increase, we note that our rentable space has decreased considerably—almost 30%—with our move to the new building.

	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
COMMUNICATIONS AND UTILITIES	291	298	315

This object class primarily funds telecommunications and postage expenses. NEH telecommunications costs include local call message units, telephone lines, instruments, installation/service, local Washington Interagency Telephone Service, mobile phones, and Internet line access fees. We anticipate a slight increase in our FY 2015 telecommunications and computer network costs with the relocation to the Constitution Center. In FY 2016 we are also estimating an increase in these costs due to upgrades in agency computer network services.

	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
PRINTING	144	144	144

This object class covers the costs of printing NEH publications such as the Endowment's award-winning, bimonthly periodical *Humanities*; posters, program announcements, and program brochures; and stationery and envelopes. No change in printing costs is expected to occur in FY 2016.

	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
OTHER CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	2,615	2,845	2,345

The Endowment supports a wide range of contractual services under this object classification. These include contracts that are required for running the agency but are not covered in any of the preceding object classes. These services include, for example: (1) support, maintenance, and improvement of information technology systems; (2) annual contract and maintenance of the agency's Oracle financial database; (3) employee training; (4) fees for site visitors who evaluate selected NEH grants; (5) security personnel costs for the agency's new home at the Constitution Center; (6) agency contracts for temporary personnel assistance; (7) support of humanities-related activities of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities (PCAH); and (8) interagency transfers in support of Grants.gov.

Noteworthy cost considerations in this object classification for FY 2016 include:

- NEH is upgrading its Oracle-based financial system in FY 2015. Accordingly, expenses will exceed our typical annual Oracle costs by about \$245,000 in the current fiscal year. Support costs for Oracle will return to their normal level in FY 2016.
- The in-house development of the eGMS system allows for an annual cost-savings of more than \$350,000 to NEH that otherwise would have been spent on a grants management system administered by a third party.
- NEH will continue its participation in the Grants.gov program, as a partner agency with the Department of Health and Human Services. For FY 2016, the estimated cost of participating in Grants.gov is \$198,000.
- Security costs have decreased with NEH's move to the Constitution Center. Costs at our former building were roughly \$255,000 per year. In FY 2015, expenses will decrease to approximately \$210,000, due to the allocation of shared costs across a much larger tenant base. Expenditures are expected to remain at this reduced level in FY 2016.

	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
PANELIST CONTRACTS	684	625	585

These funds provide for the contract costs of panelists, including travel, subsistence, and honoraria. NEH convenes many panels each year to evaluate the quality of grant applications submitted to our programs. Panelists are selected from a database that includes scholars, teachers, historians, archivists, curators, media producers, and other humanities professionals. NEH panelists represent a diversity of disciplinary, institutional, and regional backgrounds. Sufficient funding for panel reviews of grant applications is one of the Endowment's highest priorities. We strive to recruit the most competent panelists and to give them the time needed to perform an expert evaluation of all grant proposals. Our overriding goal is to ensure that the projects ultimately receiving federal support will be those most likely to make significant contributions to the humanities.

NEH convenes more than 180 panels each year involving more than 800 panelists. Currently, most of these meetings are held at the agency. For each of these sitting panels, NEH pays travel, lodging, and per diem expenses, as well as a \$250 honorarium that all panelists receive, regardless of type of service. For some of our smaller grant programs, however—Summer Stipends, Preservation Assistance Grants, Humanities Initiatives for Faculty, for example—we use electronic (or “virtual”) panels. For these kinds of panel reviews, panelists receive a set of applications electronically and submit their comments and ratings to NEH online. On occasion, we have also conducted conference-call panels.

In FY 2014, NEH selected a small number of additional programs for which we could test the use of “virtual” panel meetings. The purpose of this initiative was to expand NEH's then-existing program of mail panels and occasional conference-call panels. This pilot program resulted in more than \$60,000 in savings. By FY 2016, we plan to conduct at least half of our panels “virtually,” which will produce additional savings.

	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
SUPPLIES	116	115	113

The estimates in this object class provide for the cost of expendable supplies required to carry on the daily business of the Endowment. In addition to supporting the purchase of routine office supplies, funds in this category cover IT supplies, including disks and toner cartridges for printers, and the cost of maintaining the agency's subscriptions to essential periodicals. The FY 2014 estimate reflects a reduction in supply costs from the prior fiscal year as a result decreasing the agency inventory of supplies in anticipation of NEH's move to a new building. We expect slight savings to

be realized in both FY 2015 and FY 2016 as we further reduce our need for a physical supply inventory.

	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
EQUIPMENT	978	242	226

This spending category provides for all equipment, furniture, and office machines having a useful life in excess of one year—items such as chairs, desks, file cabinets, computers, software, and miscellaneous equipment. A scheduled replacement of the agency’s aging photocopiers, a similarly scheduled replacement of the personal computers we provide to employees, and additional increases in IT network security needs required a sizable one-time increase in equipment costs in FY 2014. In FY 2015 our equipment expenses returned to their normal cost levels, and in FY 2016 we expect to continue to reduce our equipment costs through our IT virtualization process, which will make use of cloud technologies for agency servers and data storage, as well to IT equipment replacement savings because of the relocation to the Constitution Center.

BUDGET ADDENDUM

NEH Inspector General Budget Request

The budget for the operations of NEH's Office of the Inspector General (OIG) is subsumed within the agency's general administrative budget. In accordance with Section 6(f) of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended by the IG Reform Act of 2008, NEH is requesting an aggregate budget for the OIG of \$671,369, which will support all staff salaries and allow for full administrative and legal support of this office, including:

- Staff salaries and benefits totaling \$630,369 to support a staff of 5 FTEs;
- A travel budget of \$8,000, which will allow for audit and investigative support and attendance at all appropriate IG conferences, workshops, and training seminars;
- Estimated IT expenses of \$2,000;
- A training budget of \$9,000 to allow for staff certification as mandated by the IG Act and government auditing standards;
- A memorandum of understanding between the NEH's OIG and the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, through which OIG will reimburse TIGTA for legal services, not to exceed \$20,000 in any fiscal year; and
- \$2,000 in continued support from NEH for the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency.

